

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF OREGON, COUNTY OF JACKSON

IN THE MATTER OF PROCLAIMING JACKSON)
COUNTY'S CALL FOR THE REPEAL OF THE)
PROVISIONS ENACTED PURSUANT TO)
OREGON BALLOT MEASURE 110 (2020))

ORDER NO. 192-23

WHEREAS, Oregon Ballot Measure 110 (2020), the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, was passed in 2020 with the promise of reducing crime, improving public safety, and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, the evidence shows that Measure 110 has had the opposite effect, leading to an increase in overdose deaths, criminal activity, public nuisance, and a diminished quality of life for the citizens of Oregon; and

WHEREAS, since Measure 110 was passed, there has been a dramatic increase in overdose deaths in Oregon. In 2020, there were 585 overdose deaths. In 2021, that number increased to 917. As of March 8, 2023, there have been 1,161 overdose deaths confirmed in Oregon in 2022, more than doubling the number experienced just two years prior; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon Health Authority's Oregon Overdose Prevention Dashboard, found online, showed an increase in drug overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021, with the highest rate of deaths being amongst Oregon's Black and African American communities; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110's enforcement provisions have proved ineffectual. As of June 30, 2023, of the 5,299 tickets filed in Oregon Circuit Courts since Measure 110 went into effect, more than three-fifths resulted in a recipient failing to pay and facing no further penalties, according to the Oregon Judicial Department, found online, regarding Class E violations; most of the rest of the tickets were dismissed or are pending. The State audit found that, during its first 15 months in operation, the treatment-referral hotline received just 119 calls at a cost to the State of \$7,000 per call; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has reduced the deterrent effect of drug laws, making it more likely that people would use drugs. Currently, the threat of arrest and prosecution serves as a deterrent to some people from using hard drugs. Measure 110 has removed this deterrent, making it more likely that people would use these drugs; and

WHEREAS, increased hard drug use can lead to a number of public health issues, including Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Hepatitis C, and mental health problems. These irrefutable issues place a strain on our healthcare system and make it more difficult to provide care for people who need it; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has also made it more likely that people will commit property crimes. A study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse found that drug users are more likely to commit property crimes than non-drug users. The study found that drug users are 2.5 times more likely to commit burglary, 2 times more likely to commit larceny, and 1.5 times more likely to commit motor vehicle theft; and

WHEREAS, drug users are also more likely to be involved in drug trafficking. A study by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime found that drug users are 2.5 times more likely to be involved in drug trafficking than non-drug users; and

WHEREAS, the cost of criminal activity associated with drug use is significant. A study by the RAND Corporation found that drug use costs the United States \$1,000,000,000,000 per year in crime, healthcare, and lost productivity. The National Institute on Drug Abuse estimates that drug use contributes to 1 in 5 violent crimes and 1 in 7 property crimes. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that drug use costs the United States \$74,000,000,000 per year in healthcare costs; and

WHEREAS, members of law enforcement and the criminal justice system have reported that Measure 110 has made it more difficult to motivate drug users to enter treatment. The threat of arrest and prosecution can be a motivating factor for people to enter treatment. Measure 110 has removed this motivating factor, making it more likely that people would continue to use drugs and not seek treatment. This is especially true for people who are struggling with addiction and who may need the structure and support of a treatment court or in-custody treatment program; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has reduced the quality of life for residents. Hard drug use is often associated with public nuisance behavior, such as loitering, littering, aggressive panhandling, and increased criminal activity. This has led to a diminished ability to safely use parks and other public spaces inhabited by drug users; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has led to an increase in environmental damage. Unauthorized camping and dumping of garbage and human waste on the land and in rivers and streams has increased since the passage of Measure 110. This has led to pollution of our waterways, contamination of our soil, and the spread of disease; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has diverted marijuana tax revenue from counties, which has led to a loss of funding for essential services such as law enforcement, education, and public health. In 2021, counties lost an estimated \$50,000,000 in marijuana tax revenue due to Measure 110; and

WHEREAS, Measure 110 has made Oregon a destination for hard drug users from other states. This is because Oregon is one of the few states where hard drug possession is decriminalized. This has led to an increase in the number of hard drug users in Oregon, which has put a strain on our resources and made it more difficult to address the drug overdose crisis; and

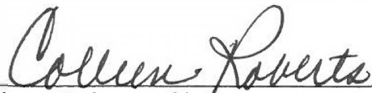
WHEREAS, we, the Jackson County Board of Commissioners, believe the derogatory effects and long-term threats to the health, safety, and welfare to the Citizens of Jackson County by Measure 110 should be acknowledged and that Measure 110 should be repealed.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Jackson County that:

1. The provisions enacted pursuant to Oregon Ballot Measure 110 (2020) need to be repealed to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.
2. The Oregon Legislature must immediately take any and all actions necessary to repeal the provisions enacted pursuant to Oregon Ballot Measure 110 (2020).

DATED this 9th day of August, 2023, at Medford, Oregon.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Colleen Roberts, Chair



Rick Dyer, Commissioner



Dave Dotterrer, Commissioner