



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Republican Caucus

February 15, 2024

Dear Senate President Wagner, Speaker Rayfield, and Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf,

Oregon is in crisis. Drugs, crime, and homelessness plague our state. They are the direct result of Measure 110's failure. The people are demanding substantive action, and this legislature must deliver for them.

The first step toward a safer, healthier Oregon is to get the drugs off the streets and addicts into treatment. Measure 110 promised treatment, but instead it opened the floodgates to access and addiction. Removing accountability from the equation has, predictably, yielded disastrous results.

To that end, we, the undersigned, are committed to supporting a bill that reclassifies the possession of deadly drugs – such as fentanyl, heroin, and meth – with accountability at least equivalent to a Class A Misdemeanor. We also fully support optional pre-trial booking diversion.

A Class A Misdemeanor provides a year of drug treatment and diversion opportunities for those charged with possession to get their addictions under control so that they can become productive members of society. This is a necessary mechanism to get people off the street and into treatment. Without a catalyst for change, the status quo of failure will endure.

Other proposals fall well short of providing the treatment pathways necessary for serious addicts to address their addictions. For example, a Class C Misdemeanor provides a maximum of only 30 days in the justice system, which is not nearly enough time for a fentanyl addict to recover.

This legislature must act in a meaningful way to solve the drug, crime, and homeless crises facing our state. Anything short of the equivalent of a Class A Misdemeanor lacks the accountability needed to get Oregon back on the right path. Papering over a problem is tantamount to doing nothing, and that is simply not an option.

We do this for all Oregonians who support our law enforcement and district attorneys.

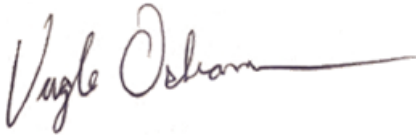
Sincerely,



Jeff Helfrich
House Republican Leader



Court Boice
State Representative, House District 1



Virgle Osborne
State Representative, District 2



Dwayne Yunker
State Representative, District 3



Christine Goodwin
State Representative, District 4



Kim Wallan
State Representative, District 6



Boomer Wright
State Representative, District 9



Jami Cate
State Representative, District 11



Charlie Conrad
State Representative, District 12



Shelly Boshart Davis
State Representative, District 15

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Rick Lewis
State Representative, District 18

Kevin Mannix
State Representative, District 21

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Anna Scharf
State Representative, District 23

Lucetta Elmer
State Representative, District 24

Brian Stout
State Representative, District 31

Cyrus Javadi
State Representative, District 32

James Hieb
State Representative, District 51

Emily McIntire
State Representative, District 56

Vikki Breese-Iverson
State Representative, District 59

Bobby Levy
State Representative, District 58

Mark Owens
State Representative, District 60

E. Werner Reschke
State Representative, District 55