
Subject: Real solutions to drug addiction

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From: ACLU of Oregon

To: ACLU of Oregon

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The banner features a dark, textured background with a vertical gradient of light on the left side. The text is centered and uses a mix of red and white colors for emphasis.

ACLU Oregon

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ACLU Supporter –

Although you know me as the Executive Director of the ACLU of Oregon, to my loved ones, I am also a mom, daughter, spouse, sister, and friend. In my personal life and through my loved ones, I have direct experiences with poverty, addiction, and physical and mental disabilities.

Like many Oregonians, I'm deeply concerned about drug addiction and increases in

overdoses across our state and country, including amongst unsheltered people whose private suffering is in public view.

It is incredibly frustrating to see how decades of underinvestment in critical services has resulted in insufficient access to affordable housing, health care, and addiction treatment across our state – and resulted in very visible suffering on our streets and in our communities.

This is why the ACLU of Oregon team has urged lawmakers to address pressing societal issues holistically – to address root causes instead of offering false promises. We've pressed for real solutions even as some deep-pocketed interest groups, in and outside Oregon, have manipulated the media, lawmakers, and everyday Oregonians with scare tactics because they want addiction, homelessness, and mental illness funneled through police and jails.

The data from 50 years of the failed "War-on-Drugs" makes this clear: Access to addiction treatment and affordable housing are the solution to the drug addiction epidemic. NOT more police, jail, and criminal records.

We know that you want to keep informed, [so we created a hub on our website to help you answer important questions](#), including:

- What does the research show us about how to best address the addiction crisis?
- How does the overdose rate in Oregon compare to other states?
- What can be done to quickly help people get into housing or get the mental health care services they need?

You'll also be hearing more from us on these topics in the coming weeks via email. And, as always, please stay in touch by following us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

As frustrated as I feel, I know that Oregon can do better. Working together, we can create a state where all people are treated with inherent value and dignity and have access to basic human rights, including health care, addiction treatment, and housing.

Oregon is what we make it. As a mom, daughter, spouse, sister, and friend – and

as an Oregonian too – I choose to make an Oregon with thriving communities, not more jails and prisons. Please join me.

With hope and in partnership,



Sandy Chung, J.D.
Pronouns: She, her, hers
Executive Director, ACLU of Oregon

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