
Subject: Your voice is making a difference!

Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 at 11:01:00 AM Pacific Standard Time

From: ACLU of Oregon

To: ACLU of Oregon

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ACLU Supporter –

Oregon needed your help, and you showed up in a BIG way.

Earlier this month, legislators held a hearing on Oregon's addiction crisis, amid pressure from an interest group funded by billionaires and led by a former prison system chief to criminalize addiction. Hundreds of you sent messages to your legislators and signed up to testify, making sure our leaders heard you loud and clear: **Police and jails will not solve addiction or homelessness.**

In total:

- 215 ACLU supporters submitted testimony they wrote personally to the committee.
- 845 action alert messages were sent to lawmakers opposing criminalization.
- 50 people showed up in person for the hearing in Salem.

We want you to know that your actions are making a difference and that lawmakers are listening. You are helping us interrupt fear-mongering narratives and put lawmakers on notice that they need to focus on expanding treatment, increasing affordable housing, and cleaning up trash on our streets, rather than giving in to fear and stigma.

We need you to keep adding pressure for real solutions by:

- [Doing this action alert](#) (which takes only a few minutes) will remind your lawmakers that police and jails will make drug addiction and homelessness more difficult and expensive to solve and disproportionately harm Black and brown communities.
- [Find the link on our website to read an opinion piece](#) written by our Executive Director Sandy Chung with Joy Alise Davis, executive director of Imagine Black, and Khanh Le, executive director of Unite Oregon.
- Writing and submitting a letter to the editor of the newspapers you read.

When we return from the holidays in January, we will keep pushing for just solutions. Let's take a moment now to make one more push before the end of the year.

We wish you happy and healthy holidays.

In solidarity,

Jackie Yerby

Pronouns: She, her, hers

Director of Community Engagement, ACLU of Oregon

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