



Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians Endorses Measures 108 & 110

The Oregon Chapter American College of Physicians is pleased to announce our official endorsement of health-related Oregon ballot measures 108 and 110, which will appear on the ballot in November.

Measure 108

In spite of the progress that has been made in the last few decades, tobacco use remains the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and the harms of electronic inhalant delivery systems have become increasingly apparent. In addition to the human costs, the financial impact of tobacco-related illness and death in the United States is enormous—over \$300 billion each year according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because of this, we support Measure 108 which would increase the cost of tobacco and vaping products in Oregon. ACP policy has long supported the use of tobacco excise taxes as an effective tool for reducing tobacco and vaping related harms, and this approach is particularly effective in preventing young people from starting to smoke or vape. In addition, the revenues generated through Measure 108 would be used to help shore up the funding for state health care programs like Medicaid.

Because of its combined public health and health care financing benefits, we encourage a YES vote on Measure 108.

Measure 110

As internists, we have the privilege and duty to treat people with a wide variety of illnesses, including patients with substance use disorders. We see first-hand the consequences of our fraying social safety net and broken legal system on our patients, families, and communities. Measure 110 offers a path forward toward evidence-based, treatment-focused, and compassionate care of people with substance use disorder in our state, and we are proud to join hundreds of other clinicians and health care organizations in supporting this initiative.

Measure 110 contains two major components that are essential to bringing about a new era of addiction treatment in Oregon. First, it decriminalizes individual possession of small amounts of Schedule I drugs (sale, distribution, or possession of large amounts would remain illegal), thus sparing many people with substance use disorder the added harms of incarceration. People who are jailed for drug use experience higher rates of Hepatitis C and HIV, greater discrimination in the housing and job sectors, and increased risk for fatal overdose and return to high-risk substance use upon release. Second, Measure 110 uses existing Marijuana Tax Revenue to establish 24/7 access to multidisciplinary addiction care in each coordinated care service area in Oregon. With current projections, this will triple the amount of state funds allocated to fighting the substance use disorder epidemic that plagues our state. These funds will be allocated through an oversight committee and will include addiction resources, housing, medical treatment, counseling services, and peer support.

Oregon, its physicians, and ACP have a long history of tackling the tough issues on behalf of our patients and our communities. Oregon ACP encourages a YES vote Measure 110 to show our state and our nation that there exists a more humane, evidence-based, and effective way to treat addiction.