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House Democrats Reject Legislation to Reform Measure 110, Put Victims Before Criminals, Bolster Public Safety

Salem, OR – Today, in recognition of National Police Week and in response to Oregon’s drug crisis, House Republicans attempted to withdraw four pieces of legislation to prioritize public safety and Measure 110 reform. Democratic committee chairs never advanced these bills in committee. The Democratic majority voted each bill down on the floor, despite bipartisan support on three of the four votes.

A [recent poll](#) among Oregonians revealed that:

- **63% of respondents** would support a tweak to Measure 110 to reinstate criminal punishments for the possession of illegal drugs while continuing funding for drug addiction services.
- **65% of respondents** felt that Measure 110 has made addition and overdoses in the State of Oregon worse.
- **63% of respondents** felt that Measure 110 has worsened the homelessness crisis.

While none of the motions received the required 31 votes to withdraw a bill, three of the four bills had bipartisan support and split evenly in tied 30-30 votes.

- [House Joint Resolution 29](#) – Proposal for a constitutional amendment that would bring Oregon in line with all 49 other states requiring a unanimous verdict if not guilty, as well as a unanimous verdict if guilty. Motion to withdraw from Rules failed - **Ayes, 25; Nays, 35.**
- [House Bill 2135](#) – Eliminates the current “catch and release” system which allows criminals to commit a crime, get arrested, get released, and then commit another crime after release. Motion to withdraw from Judiciary failed - **Ayes, 30; Nays, 30.**
- [House Bill 3603](#) – Provides that in cases where a defendant is charged with a sexual offense or domestic violence, evidence of the defendant’s commission of prior sexual offenses or domestic violence is admissible. Motion to withdraw from Judiciary failed - **Ayes, 30; Nays, 30.**

- [House Bill 2310](#) – Reestablishes criminal penalties for possession and distribution of street drugs, including fentanyl, that were stripped by Measure 110, while still supporting the rehabilitation funds that go towards expanding access to rehabilitation programs. Motion to withdraw from Judiciary failed - **Ayes, 30; Nays, 30.**

“House Bill 2310 would have done what most Oregonians are asking for. Not only did this body fail to meet the moment today, but I would like to point out that this bill was never even scheduled for a public hearing to gain the input of Oregonians. Do we not want to hear what they have to say? We must hold drug users accountable to prevent future tragedies,” **said Representative Lewis (R-Silverton), former Chief of Police for 28 years, on the House floor.**

Just this week alone, it has been reported that:

- [Portland overdose deaths](#) have climbed nearly 50% this year.
- [8 overdose deaths](#) were reported over the weekend in Portland by what is suspected to be fentanyl.
- [Thousands of Portland residents](#) are leaving the city as it grapples with the fentanyl crisis.
- [Few drug offenders](#) bother calling a treatment hotline to have their fines for possession waived.
 - **Only 5 people in Multnomah County** have taken up this offer.

Just yesterday, [Washington lawmakers](#) voted to keep drugs **illegal**. Today, Oregon House Democrats voted to keep drugs **legal**.

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