



PDX NAACP Branch #1120 Political Action Committee

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Portland, OR 97232
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22 JULY 2020

Office of The Secretary of State

Bev Clarno
900 Court Street NE, Capitol Room 136
Salem, OR 97310-0722

Dear Secretary of State Bev Clarno,

Since our founding, the NAACP has been dedicated to informing the public of the adverse effects of racial discrimination and seeking its elimination. We are appreciative of the commitment and collaborative efforts from campaigns such as, Yes on IP 44, with the NAACP in our fight for racial and social justice.

We are encouraged to make recommendations on the already promising study that has been produced by the Oregon Criminal Justice Committee. The relief that the enactment of the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act upon its potential passage will provide is invaluable and will benefit the lives of thousands of Oregonians.

We recommend the Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement be further strengthened with the inclusion and acknowledgment several key components, principles, and facts as it relates to IP 44's impact.

They are as followed:

- Even without a conviction, arrests can be costly, traumatic, and they can show up on criminal background checks, even if someone was not convicted. Those arrests also cost law enforcement substantial resources. That cost must be identified.
- The study needs more information on the breakdown of who is being arrested by race and ethnicity and what the disposition of these cases was.
- When describing the initiative, the description should be more complete so that it is accurate. Specifically, it should include that the initiative replaces criminal punishments with expanded access to treatment, and an incentive to get treatment services.
- The study needs to address racial disparities in prosecution, sentencing, or pre-trial jail time, or other decision points where people of color face disparities.
- The study is too narrow. It addresses racial disparities in drug convictions but does not address arrests. 8,903 people were arrested last year in cases where drugs were the most serious offense.
- The ballot title quoted at the top of the study should be the actual

ballot title certified by the Secretary of State. That ballot title is:
“Provides statewide addiction/recovery services; marijuana taxes
partially finance; reclassifies possession/penalties for specified
drugs.”

Please take all these suggestions and recommendations and act upon them
through implementation. It is important that voters make a sound decision
and offering a fuller picture will allow the constituency to do so.

Thank you for your time. We look forward for your response and action in the
upcoming weeks

Sincerely,

The Political Action Committee of the Portland Branch of the NAACP