

Chair Janelle Bynum, Vice Chairs Ron Noble, Karin Power, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Raymond Smith. I submit this testimony today in opposition to HB 2002.

HB 2002 seeks substantial changes to many safety laws of distinctly different topics. Each of these changes, if adopted, unarguably will reduce public safety and the safety of specific law enforcement employees. This is Unacceptable and contrary to your fiduciary responsibility. As elected officials you have a duty to preserve laws that promote the safety of the public.

The proposed sweeping changes to Measure 11 mandatory sentencing laws is essentially a repeal. This initiative was approved by nearly two thirds of the electorate in 1994. In 2000, Measure 94 to repeal Measure 11 mandatory sentences was rejected by over 73% of the electorate. No member of the legislature could honestly claim HB 2002 represents the public given that nearly three quarters of the electorate has previously rejected its repeal. Regardless of personal belief or feelings, with passage, anything short of a referendum of HB 2002 to the public is Unethical and a Dereliction of Duty.

Section 20. APPROPRIATION FOR REIMAGINE SAFETY FUND.

HB 2002 Dictates the appropriation of 2,500,000 dollars from the General Fund for the Biennium beginning July 1, 2021. These Taxpayer funds would be distributed to The Northwest Health Foundation for deposit into the Reimagine Safety Fund.

The Northwest Health Foundation is a 501(c)(3) Non profit, tax exempt corporation. The Reimagine Safety Fund Budget for 2020 shows a total expenditure of 2,620,000.

Taxpayer funds going to ANY Non Profit Corporation that lobbies congress is a conflict of interest. This is a glaring example of Misappropriation and Misuse of taxpayer funds.

Limitation On Arrest And Traffic Stops. Sections, 21, 22, and 24.

The list of serious crimes in Sec. 22 that prohibits police from arrest is astounding. What happens with the criminals that are simply fined and then continues to commit the crime(s)? There is no mechanism for the police to stop the criminal or the crime from being committed or recommitted time and again. It may come as a surprise but the honor system does not work with criminals. We have had an explosion of property crimes, person crimes, traffic crimes, wrecks and constant drug crimes, all stemming from the ongoing failed honor system with the marijuana industry.

Sec. 24. Prohibits traffic stop for lighting violations on vehicles. These are safety issues. A vehicle is harder to see with one headlight or taillight out. A brake light out also means no turn signal for many vehicles. Police do not just write tickets. You are typically warned to fix it unless previously stopped for the same thing. With the inability to stop a driver for this, there is no incentive to fix it.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS. (Parole and Probation Officers)

To forbid parole and probation officers from wearing uniforms similar to police and disarming them at any time decreases job safety. This is like forbidding someone who grinds metal from wearing safety glasses. It is absurd.

(Expansion of Earned Reduction in Supervision), (Changes to Supervised Conditions) and (Limit on Violation Sanctions and Conforming Amendments)

This is written to shorten probation and parole and restrict revocation under most violations. This will result in unanswerable crimes.

Justice Reinvestment Program Changes.

Sec. 53 Subsection (B) (i) through (xiii) This violates discrimination laws as it dictates the formation and grant funding of racially biased and segregated services. The mandate of prioritized funding to this racially specific group violates Article XIV of the U.S. Constitution and Art.1 Sec.20 of Or. Constitution.

This Bill reduces public safety. It violates law. I urge you to reject it.

I urge each member to introduce and support a Bill defining the criteria for the Emergency Clause to stop its abuse.

Respectfully Submitted
Raymond Smith