

Submitter: Joe Hovey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

In reading your proposal on how to FIX MEASURE 110 I must say it falls short of what I expected from the Democrats under your lead. After months of meetings and discussions, as well as "paid" trip to Portugal, the best you offer is making possessing a small amount of drugs a Class C Misdemeanor. Basically, a slap on the hand and nothing much more.

I have to agree with the Law Enforcement Groups and the Republicans that we need to hold these people accountable; there need to be stronger consequences for possessing the drugs.

At best - it should be a Class A Misdemeanor to have any "teeth" and consequences. And I don't buy into the mantra by those proponents of Measure 110 who say we are returning to a War on Drugs. Enough with the "sound bytes" and think about the alternatives that can be addressed when charged. Jail time is not a necessity if the user is open to seeking treatment and the judge can make such a ruling. We need to rethink our judicial system and how the "drug courts" fit into that system.

This will take some thinking outside the box. And I had hoped that the Dems could do this. I had hoped you would rise above the sound bytes and actually come up with a well rounded proposal.

To say the least I am disappointed. I had expected more thoughtful decisions and some discussion on how to revamp our judicial system so as to get people into treatment and off the streets. But nothing in your proposal addresses that.

Too bad as it could have been a moment for the Dems to actually offer alternatives to just "jail time".

On top of this, you are now proposing that OHA "study Oregon's addiction crisis" ... where was this proposal prior to presenting Measure 110 to the voters for the ballot. Once again, the majority party put the cart before the horse; this study should have happened a few years back prior to 110.

Given this, I will keep a close eye on how things transpire in the legislation. While I hate to see a ballot measure re: Measure 110, it may be our only alternative to your half baked proposal.