

Submitter: Joe Hovey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: SB1555

I am fully in support of raising the penalties for drug use in public spaces. We need to be rethinking how we handle this as the current status quo is NOT working. We need to rethink our "drug courts" and how they fit within our statewide judicial system. As opposed to seeing this as a return to "war on drugs", we need to be looking more closely at how we get people into addiction services. It's Jail Time vs Addiction Treatment; the drug courts provide a means to making this happen and providing addicts with solutions. The majority party is planning to make this a Class C Misdemeanor; basically a slap on the hands and nothing more. We need to be stronger - Class A Misdemeanor! We can no longer tolerate the status quo here in OR; we need to be more aggressive in getting people into treatment and eventually support services with housing options. And we need to insure that they finish the treatment programs prior to moving forward within the process.