

Submitter: Stacey Boatright

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 4002.

ADDICTION IS NOT A CRIME – IT IS A HEALTHCARE ISSUE. Oregon can and must do better than HB 4002 to address the addiction crisis. HB 4002 is an inadequate and harmful approach that will not solve our addiction crisis and will instead waste taxpayer dollars. It will result in more people going to jail, more people being harmed, more individuals being displaced, more families being disrupted, and more people dying from overdoses.

Here are the main reasons I oppose this bill:

- HB 4002 will inflict more government harm and violence on Black and brown communities. Black and brown Oregonians will be arrested at higher rates and be most likely to face incarceration and harsher sentencing.
- HB 4002 creates a destructive revolving door treatment system that hurts people suffering with addiction. There is minimal treatment available for anyone, including people who are arrested.
- HB 4002 spends massive amounts of taxpayer dollars on state and local governments to build out an ineffective criminal system. The proposal adds layers of exorbitantly expensive, unfunded expenses to our criminal system, which already costs Oregonians billions in tax dollars annually.
- HB 4002 repeats the State's failure to implement Measure 110 and creates hugely expensive, overly complicated, and violent systems that have failed in the past, are not evidence based, and will delay and defund real solutions to the addiction crisis.
- HB 4002 would return Oregon to the failed and harmful policies of the war on drugs. Re-criminalizing addiction will make it more difficult and expensive to address drug addiction and homelessness.

The legislature should focus on real solutions that will help our communities instead of returning to the failed policies of the past that simply won't work. What we need is: (1) more detox/treatment centers, (2) more supported and recovery housing, and (3) more rapid response on our streets with outreach workers who are trained to get people into care. We must invest in proven solutions that address the root causes of crime, like affordable housing, mental health and addiction treatment, and economic growth. We need to stay focused on providing treatment, shelter, and housing instead of just giving up.

Thank you for your consideration,

Stacey Boatright

Resident of St. Johns in Portland, OR