

Submitter: Gary Cates

On Behalf Of: Addiction is not a crime

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 4002. This bill will overturn Measure 110, which was approved by 58% of the voting public.

Prohibition of drugs, including alcohol, has never done anything but compound the problems it tries to mitigate. Addiction is not a crime, it is a healthcare issue. Aside from overriding the will of the electorate, HB 4002 will waste taxpayer dollars, strain an already overburdened justice system and leave addicts with little hope of ever overcoming their illness. Sending these people to prison or rehabilitation programs under threat of incarceration has never worked and will not work in the future. Once charged with crimes, their prospects for building a career, obtaining a place to live and creating a productive life are substantially hindered. Additionally, the overdose rate has remained essentially the same before and after decriminalization of small amounts of drugs. The legislature should focus on real solutions that will help people instead of inflicting more harm on them.

I urge you to please vote no on HB 4002.