

Submitter: Patrick Bedard

On Behalf Of: Addiction is a healthcare issue

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I would like to ask you to please vote no on HB 4002. HB 4002 would be a huge mistake. It would repeal Measure 110, a measure that was voted into legislation by the majority of Oregon voters. To overturn this measure would be an insult to our state's democratic process.

HB 4002 would criminalize addiction, something that has never worked to reduce overdose deaths or help people get care. HB 4002 takes us backwards by: Treating addiction as a crime; Inflicting more government harm and violence on Black and brown communities; Putting Measure 110 funding at risk. Diverting funding to the criminal system that could be used for addiction services; Further overburdens the public defense system, which is already over capacity.

We need to treat addiction for what it is: a healthcare issue. Oregon can and must do better than HB 4002 to address the addictions crisis. HB 4002 is an inadequate and harmful approach that will not solve our addictions crisis and will instead waste taxpayer dollars. HB 4002 will result in more people going to jail, more people being harmed, more individuals being displaced, more families being disrupted, more people dying from overdoses. 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.

Please, for the safety, wellbeing, and mutual thriving of all Oregonians, vote no on HB 4002.