

Submitter: Melinda Bell

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am writing to let you know that taking away Measure 110 is not the answer: as a woman of color, mother of 8 of my own, and mother of many children including all races. Going back to the way it was will never work. I believe treatment works if there is a correct path. We need more treatment centers, and we need law enforcement and judges to work with us, not against us, to make this change happen. I have been failed many times by the system at so many levels. However, with a strong community and accountability, I was able to see clear and get on the road to recovery. Not everyone's recovery looks the same; that is why we have harm reduction.

I'm writing on behalf of my family. I have witnessed the system fail us at great lengths over the last 4 months. We have the resources coming online in the near future here in Washington County, whereas before, there were no detox places or recovery options available. Now we have quite a few more with access to housing and recovery services being built. I ask that you allow us to continue the good work that we have successfully obtained thus far.

Most recently my child got her 2nd DUI. I received a phone call at 4 am after I had already told the officer I wasn't coming to pick her up. It was her 2nd DUI and she is going to jail. I am a mother I don't want to see my child in jail. However, I also don't want to see my child in a coffin or behind bars for the rest of her life. There should have been resources given to her upon release and a social worker. Addictions specialists or something within the jail that could have assessed her to know the level of care she needed. Sending her back home to find her own way into treatment is not holding her accountable for her actions.

These are the policies that I strongly encourage we add to the measure, not take anything away.

Thank you for your time and understanding.