

Submitter: Gayle Dorothy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Hello and good morning evening!

I am writing to you because I am concerned about HB 4002 and its negative effects on civilian life in Oregon. I work with to helps homeless and housing insecure people get the assistance they need to live and hopefully thrive. The decriminalization of drugs and public drug use has been a great service to the community. And to be clear the community includes drug users and homeless people!

We can't sit by and watch as you continue to push already marginalized people even further outside the bounds of acceptable society. These people are our friends and neighbors and they need our support! They don't need to be sent to jail where they will be physically and sexually abused by sheriff's deputies and other corrections officers. They don't need to be forced into rehabilitation facilities from which they will be placed immediately back into the situations that led to drug use in the first place. They certainly don't need to be stripped away from their families and peer support who genuinely care about them and do everything they can to make their lives better.

HB 4002, if passed, will absolutely lead to further loss of life and waste taxpayer dollars. Please take a moment to consider why you would want to make public consumption illegal and close down (or refuse to open) any safe use sites. These types of services would lower the burden on our already overworked and underfunded private hospital system which syphons money from everyday citizen's need for a healthy body and mind. Also let's don't forget that these systems disproportionately harm Black and brown communities, disabled folks, and queers!

The real reason a bill like HB 4002 gets offered up is because people would rather turn their back on their neighbor (the most unchristian type of behavior!). In the end we hope you will do the right thing and allow drugs and alcohol to be freely consumed by those who wish it, and to keep the safe use sites like bars and restaurants from shuttering due to lack of alcohol sales once you make alcohol consumption illegal again after nearly 100 years! Thank you for your time and please go have a drink so you can remember what it feels like to consume drugs in public such as alcohol, it's your personal choice and we shouldn't be restricting people's choice to put what they want into their own bodies!