

Submitter: Alexandra Geffel

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Hello, my name is Alexandra Geffel. I'm writing as a concerned citizen, who is in recovery from alcohol and drugs. I'm writing to inform you that I'm opposed to recriminalizing possession of drugs.

Oregon needs real solutions that will help people get the services they need without criminalizing addiction or returning to the failed war on drugs. Our state needs a massive investment in detox, recovery housing, residential treatment, and more. That's what we should all be pulling towards. There is no need for this divisiveness. As Sgt. Aaron Schmautz, Portland Police Association President, testified in Salem, "Addiction and mental health concerns are a health issue. We cannot and should not attempt to arrest our way out of these issues."

It's also important to note that a recent report from the CDC, published by JAMA Psychiatry, confirms that there is no link between Measure 110 and overdose rates. This is important peer-reviewed data that proves what we are doing by leaning into a healthcare approach to addiction is making a positive difference. But more must be done, and elected leadership needs to step up and do more to address the ongoing drug crisis. We need unified support from leaders committed to providing services to people who need them quickly; demanding accountability from local officials; and strongly supporting first responders and service providers.

Addiction is not a crime, 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.

Thank you for reading.