

Submitter: Beth Chvilicek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My name is Beth Chvilicek (they/them) and I am writing today in opposition of HB 4002 and in defense of Measure 110.

Recriminalizing drug possession to any extent would have detrimental impacts on Oregonians everywhere. As a person who spent years studying social work, it is evident to me that decriminalizing drug possession and repealing M110 would only hurt people who are already struggling. Rather than arresting people who are using drugs, perhaps we should focus our energy and resources on helping those who are hurting. We can do this by ensuring that rehabilitation centers and housing are accessible and available. By creating more safe injection sites. By providing public education how to use drugs safely. By treating Oregonians like the humans that they are. Reading and watching the reactions to Measure 110 has made one thing abundantly clear to me: we are forgetting that there are people who are struggling and hurting. And instead of holding out a hand to help, we are kicking them to the ground.

I urge the committee to vote no on any measures that would decriminalize drug possession.