

Submitter: Heather Coffman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My name is Heather Coffman and I am a volunteer with Unite Oregon Rogue Valley. I am writing to ask you to not fall back on old useless ways to control drug use in Oregon. As Oregonians we have the power to be at the forefront of this battle to take back our people and show the United States and the world we care about people first. So I am here to say I am in opposition to recriminalization.

I am a child of the war on drugs. I spent 40+ yrs hearing how locking people up was the only way to get drugs off the streets. All it did was put people in jail where they can still get drugs. How is this helping anyone? Our only choice is change. We need to be different. We need to also take the time to let those changes work. When I worked for Jackson County Mental Health I saw so many people that needed help. I also know as a fact that when people can't get help they will self medicate and often that is their first step. Let's help these people, not just warehouse them in jails and prisons.

Please I am urging the committee to vote no on any measures that would recriminalize possession.