

Submitter: Allister Byrd

On Behalf Of: No on recriminalization

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My name is Allister Byrd and I've lived in Portland for nearly 7 years. I work in philanthropy and work closely with groups working to Reimagine Public Safety. Measure 110 has allowed many of them to provide community services in a short time span that would be unthinkable otherwise.

There has been a nearly 300% increase in new services funded by Measure 110. But Measure 110 cannot solve the addictions crisis alone, Oregon has only 50% capacity to meet addiction treatment services. We need more detox, more supported and recovery housing, more rapid response on our streets with outreach workers trained to get people into care. This is the right approach for Oregon.

All Oregonians deserve to be safe, but people don't feel safe in their own neighborhoods. Drug use and poverty are devastating families and communities. We can't arrest our way out of homelessness, addiction, or mental health crises. Instead, we need to invest in proven solutions that address the root causes of crime, like affordable housing, mental health and addiction treatment, and economic growth.

Oregon's homelessness and addiction crises have been decades in the making and we have only just begun to address these complex issues after years of inaction. Going back to the old, failed strategies won't help. We need to stay focused on providing treatment, shelter and housing instead of just giving up.