

Submitter: Marissa Armas

On Behalf Of: Follow your heart and your empathy please

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB 4002.

I don't need to describe to you what the bill entails, it's your job to know that.

I also don't feel like citing facts and figures is helpful, you have access to that.

What you should focus on is the human aspect. People don't choose to become addicted to drugs. People who are experiencing hurt in their lives, whether it's from abuse or housing insecurity or food insecurity or any number of reasons, those are the people who turn to drug use as a coping mechanism. They don't want to be addicted, they want to heal and if they can't do that then they want to be numb.

These are people we should help. Get them access to housing help. Get them access to non-judgmental and religious-based treatment programs. Find them accessible food resources so they don't use drugs to ease the pains of hunger. You can help these people. We can help these people.

This is a time of great political unrest. There is a whiplash going through America right now that has yet to crack. A few years is not long enough to determine the effectiveness of legislative health & safety solutions. Don't give in to the pressure of the loudest voices.

Follow your heart and your empathy, please.