

Submitter: Angus Shumway

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Chairs Leiber and Kropf and members of the committee -

My name is Angus Shumway. I am a Portland resident and non-profit employee.

I know from personal experience that HB4002 would have a tremendously negative impact on the organizations trying to undo the years of damage created by the War on Drugs here in Oregon. Measure 110 is an innovative program that centers the personhood and wellbeing of individual Oregon residents - HB4002 would destabilize many of the opportunities that Oregon residents now have to receive treatment for drug addiction. Recriminalization of drugs would be a violent blow to the marginalized citizens of Oregon; the Black, brown, and indigenous peoples who would disproportionately suffer from increased arrests and jail time, the homeless population that is facing a health epidemic on unprecedented scales, and the employees of these organizations who are putting in the literal blood, sweat, and tears to get people the care and attention they need.

I am appalled at the suggestion that Measure 110 has made Oregon worse, especially when these claims are spread with no supporting data by individuals who are detached from the general Oregon population and have little to no experience in providing direct services to those in crisis. This bill was passed in 2020 - because of the bureaucracy and hoops presented by the Oregon Health Authority, much of the funding was not distributed to these organizations until late 2022. Decades of damage done by the War on Drugs is not going to be fixed in a year. It will take time, effort, faith, and support.

I ask the committee to consider their place in this process. You are not on the ground floor - you are not providing the direct services necessary to undo the damage to these communities, you do not interact directly with the individuals who benefit from these services, and because of this you have a responsibility to consider their wellbeing and rally behind the people who are putting in the effort to make Oregon a healthier, better place to live for everybody.

Thank you for your time and consideration.