

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

To: [Co-Chair Senator Kate Lieber](#), [Co-Chair Representative Jason Kropf](#), and Members: Senators [Fred Girod](#), [Tim Knopp](#), [Floyd Prozanski](#), [Elizabeth Steiner](#) and Representatives [Christine Goodwin](#), [Kevin Mannix](#), [Rob Nosse](#), [Tawna Sanchez](#), [Greg Smith](#) and [Andrea Valderrama](#):

[Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response](#)

From: Katie Riley, Ed.D.

Re: Oppose HB 4002

My name is Katie Riley and I live in Hillsboro, Oregon. I am retired from the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at OHSU. I am also a past President of Oregon Public Health Association and currently serve as a board member for Sequoia Mental Health Services. In addition, I have had family members who were addicted to drugs and alcohol. I am representing myself today.

Addiction is a public health issue. I wish this bill could be an answer to getting people into care and avoiding having people shooting up and dying on the streets. The intentions of the authors are to be commended. Unfortunately, it is evident that none of the provisions of this bill would make a difference. The major problem we face is the lack of effective ways to get people into treatment, short of incarceration. Further, we do not have the resources to treat them. Outreach and peer mentoring can help to fill that gap. Decreasing the funding for staff and programs to treat people by taking the money from Measure 110 and putting it into policing is not going to address that issue. Even if all the money was put into policing, it would not provide enough police to watch over every homeless person on the street, let alone the people who are not homeless and use substances in private. This bill just does not make sense. It is time to leave the money where it is and address additional mechanisms to provide treatment and care.

I oppose HB 4002 and efforts to criminalize addiction and urge you to also oppose HB 4002 and efforts to criminalize addiction.

Sincerely,

Katie Riley, Ed.D.
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Hillsboro, OR 97124