

Submitter: Corin Hartnell

On Behalf Of: HIV Alliance

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: SB1555

My name is Corin and I am an intern at HIV Alliance in Eugene. From my direct experience working in harm reduction, I understand that homelessness, addiction, and HIV infection are deeply intertwined issues that are best addressed with a compassionate public health approach rather than punitive action. The criminalizing objectives proposed for this bill are not evidence based and will cause harm to our community. Criminalizing addiction is not a solution, yet the state legislature would sooner waste taxpayer dollars and destroy lives by putting drug users through the criminal justice system as a quick fix rather than investing in meaningful long term solutions. To treat addiction as a crime rather than a health issue is inhumane, unjust, and harmful. Therefore I strongly opposed using SB 1555 to rollback productive strides created by Measure 110 to combat these concomitant issues and urge that Oregon must do better.