

Submitter: William Burt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4036

I wholeheartedly support this bill because it approaches the problems of drug possession, drug addiction and drug dealing from a realistic standpoint. So far, we have seen that without any significant penalties, people will buy, sell and use controlled substances with impunity. There is currently no motivation for them to stop engaging in these criminal behaviors. Even the threat of a misdemeanor is little more than a slap on the wrist. Only serious sanctions—steep fines, jail time, potential felony convictions—will deter people from using, abusing and selling dangerous drugs such as fentanyl. We have already seen how criminals are bypassing the state of Florida and are flocking to New York because of stiff and lax penalties for lawbreaking, respectively. Oregon cannot sustain the present level of narcotics use with its attendant fallout. To deal with this epidemic, we must pass laws with teeth in them. Otherwise, we're just patting ourselves on the back and sweeping the problem under the rug. HB 4036 has enough teeth to make a dent in Oregon's drug problem.

Sincerely,

William Burt