

Submitter: Darrel Purkerson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Thank you for the invitation to testify but my mobility is not at 100%. But I will give you my view on Measure 110.

The intention of the measure was not completely thought out when it was developed. When you reduce the penalties for any violation of laws or rules it opens the door for those who abuse the rules. Over the last sixty years, as seen from being a Pharmacist licensed for over fifty years, I have seen many changes in trying to control drug abuse.

One law that helped control drug use is when they implemented a law specifying drugs in a control system where the worst items were classified in class 1 and the items creating less problems were in class 5. This system helped by classifying drugs like cocaine, heroine and meth-amphetamine as illegal in Class 1. Class 2 drugs were medications like oxycodone, morphine, opium and others related items that required a new order for each time the prescription was ordered. This made it harder for drug abusers to obtain Class 2 drugs. Class 3 drugs were items that could be obtained via prescription either written or transmitted to a pharmacy to be filled and refills were allowed. Class 4 and 5 drugs were those items that were less abused which included tranquilizers, sleeping aids and etc. This program helped to slow drug abuse for certain items.

Anytime laws or rules are changed there are always problems, but reducing the penalties for breaking a law is a big mistake. All this does is encourage the abuser to create more problems. We see this with the increase in use of fentanyl. Reducing the penalties for murder, rape, sex abuse and other crimes just give the criminals more rights. If they were to increase some of the penalties for crime this might discourage the abusers, a bad example if they were to perform a certain surgery on sex abusers this might discourage the abuser of breaking the law. We do not want to change the law and reduce the penalties for DUI, speeding, running stop signals or other laws.

Measure 110 has to be reworked or canceled and go back to make drug abuse of certain items a crime with definite penalties.

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