

Submitter: Tom Espinosa

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My dear legislators,

As a parent of young kids, I mourn with those the loss of life and the loss of innocence. Our children deserve better. As a retired ICU RN with nearly 30 years of experience, I can testify, punishing the offender, will not undo the trauma of the crime. We have to find a better way. We have to educate and motivate desirable behavior in our youth and as any parent knows, you can't punish your child into good behavior.

Increasing penalties on people who can't pay, turns them into wards of the State. This is expensive and it is ineffective. Whereas, we can make changes to ORS 153 to expand the reasons officers can sequester violators moving them to a place where they can be monitored and be provided services.

Modifying ORS 743 definitions that could allow health care insurers and plan providers to certify front line behavioral health staff to provide much needed services.

Expanding BHRN definitions and providers providing more resources. Success is obtained not by lowering our standards, but by removing barriers. More penalties creates more barriers and will not deter. Removing barriers to education and access to resources are the best prevention.

Appreciatively, Tom Espinosa Medford