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Paul Lumley

February 7, 2024

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*Delivered verbally*

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For the record, my name is Jonathan Frochtzvajg; I'm the Public-Policy Manager for Cascade AIDS Project, Oregon's oldest and largest HIV-services provider. I'm testifying this evening to oppose HB 4002-1 and implore you not to recriminalize possession of small amounts of controlled substances.

**Secretary**  
William E. Spigner  
Nike

Disordered substance use is a major contributor to the ongoing HIV epidemic in Oregon. Approximately one out of every five new HIV diagnoses is related to injection-drug use. When drugs are criminalized, people who inject them are more likely to be afraid to access syringe programs, and thus likelier to share needles. The research on this link is clear: A meta-analysis in the medical journal *The Lancet* that looked at over 100 studies found that the evidence "consistently showed clear patterns of criminalization having negative effects on HIV prevention and treatment." This is just one example of the ways in which drug criminalization acts as a barrier to health services and worsens public-health problems.

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Although the form of drug criminalization that has been proposed in HB 4002 includes mechanisms intended to limit its negative impacts, we, like many other experts in our community, believe that the results will be largely the same as under previous criminalization schemes. People experiencing substance-use disorder will again avoid engaging in our and our partners' services for fear of being harmed by the carceral system. Police will again spend time they could be spending on public-safety issues, like gun violence, on serving as untrained social workers. And because the proposed deflection and expungement programs have not been fully developed or evaluated, we believe that many people struggling with addiction will again cycle through our jails and rack up criminal records, making it more difficult for housing-service providers like CAP to place our clients in homes.

**Tracy A. Curtis**  
Wells Fargo Bank

**Jason H. Desilet**  
OnPoint Community  
Credit Union

**Christopher Friend**  
Swire Coca-Cola

**Eric Garcia**  
Multnomah County

**CJ Grub**  
Methinks

**Daniel Guilfoyle**  
Native American Youth &  
Family Center (NAYA)

**Craig A. Kolins, PhD**  
Trauma Intervention Program  
(TIP) Northwest

**Sarah Morris**  
Ernst & Young, LLP

**John R. Ogden**  
Kaiser Permanente

We understand that many Oregonians believe criminalization will solve the problems we see on our streets. Wealthy special interests have been spreading this misinformation for years. But true leadership means doing what's right—what's best for those who most need help—not just telling people what they want to hear. Please, join us in working toward the real solutions we need to end the addiction *and* HIV epidemics. Thank you for listening.

**Jeffrey W. Woodcox**  
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