

Submitter: Derek Collier

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4036

By passing Measure 110 by an overwhelming majority of voters, Oregonians said that the cycle of criminalization and incarceration for a mental health disorder was over. Republican representatives now seek to overthrow the will of the people by reintroducing criminal penalties for drug possession, claiming that Measure 110 is a failed experiment. What has failed, however, is our State's leadership, for not ensuring that Measure 110 was implemented in a timely manner, in a way that made sense, and with all needed support. For Republican representatives to know of the mismanaged implementation and now point to that mismanagement as evidence of the Measure's failure in order to subvert the will of the people of Oregon is treasonous, no matter what they may say to obfuscate their goals.

The simple reality is that addiction disorder is a public health crisis that has been horrifically abused as a political hot button issue since Republican President Ronald Reagan declared his "war on drugs," a 40+ year Republican failure to manipulate the voting public through fear mongering and race baiting.

Addiction disorder cannot meaningfully be addressed in a carceral setting, as it requires therapeutic interventions and community supports that our criminal punishment system is professionally unequipped to provide.

Instead of allowing the Republican party to pull us backwards from treatment-focused solutions, the Oregon Congress must stand firm in upholding the will of Oregon voters.