

Submitter: frank blackston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4036

This is an ineffective measure to fix M110, that is why I oppose it. The intent of M110 is good- I support that. But it was implemented poorly and the fix you are proposing needs to be improved:

- 1) Public use of drugs needs to be criminalized with a misdemeanor A. public drug use is negatively impacting livability and discouraging investments in our community- this reduced investment has negative impact on our economies
- 2) HB 4002 doesn't have teeth to deter use of hard drugs. Speaking from personal experience, any fixes must be able to push someone into treatment.
- 3) HB 4002 must reclassify possession of hard drugs as a Class A misdemeanor crime – not the lowest level Class C as is being proposed.
- 4) Drug treatment must be a mandatory alternative to jail – the voluntary approach under Measure 110 has failed. I know from personal experience that people in the throes of addiction are not in the right state to make the choice to pursue treatment. They need a push, not simply an invitation.
- 5) Lawmakers should listen to Oregon law enforcement who support a Class A misdemeanor - we need appropriate guardrails around this program that move addicts into treatment and also help sustain neighborhood safety and livability.

Thank you.