

Submitter: Frank Blackston

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

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. A misdemeanor A will have enough teeth to help curb this behavior.

2) HB 4002 doesn't have teeth to deter use of hard drugs and push someone to treatment. Speaking from personal experience, any fixes must be able to push someone into treatment.

3) 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.

4) 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.