



To: Joint Committee on Addition and Community Safety
Response

From: Imagine Black

Re: Opposition HB 4036

Date: February 7th 2024

Co-Chair Leirber, Co-Chair Kropf, and Members Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 4036. My name is Danita Harris; I am the Deputy Director of Movement Building at Imagine Black, a community-driven organization envisioning a world where people of African descent enjoy the rights, resources, and recognition to be a thriving, resilient, and connected community.

HB 4036's public safety provisions raise significant concerns. This is not backed by data, continues the War on Drugs, and is a misuse of Oregon tax dollars.

While legislators consistently state that they do not want to return to the War on Drugs, these policies do exactly that. Before implementing Measure 110, Portland Police were arresting Black people at over four times the rate of our white peers, the fifth worst rate in the entire county. After implementation, Black Oregonians have been issued Class E violations at double the rate of our population, despite drug use being similar across demographics.

The War on Drugs was not a single policy implemented one time decades ago. It is a series of policies implemented over time by decision-makers who have chosen to work against the data to uplift a policing model for a healthcare crisis. Black Oregonians Deserve Better; I implore you not to replicate the same harms of the past.

Thank you,
Danita Harris, Deputy Director of Movement Building
Imagine Black