

Submitter: Malcolm McIver

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear Legislators,

I am writing today to urge you to reclassify possession of hard drugs as a Class A misdemeanor crime – not the lowest level Class C as is being proposed in HB 4002. Treating possession as a low level misdemeanor does not work, as has been showed by the failures of Measure 110. Law enforcement and addiction services need more effective tools in getting people off the streets and into care.

With that in mind, I believe drug treatment must be a mandatory alternative to jail – the voluntary approach under Measure 110 has failed. If people are not in their right minds due to drug addiction and mental illness, it is delusional to think they can rationally evaluate whether to participate in treatment.

Lawmakers should listen to Oregon law enforcement who support a Class A misdemeanor and reject the national drug legalization lobbyists defending Measure 110.

I urge you to make drug possession a Class A misdemeanor and to require mandatory treatment. It will save lives and help our cities recover their livability.