

Submitter: Blaine Palmer  
On Behalf Of: Care not jail  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure: HB4002

My name is Blaine Palmer, of inner Southeast Portland. I'm writing in reference to HB 4002 because I strongly oppose recriminalization of drug use.

I have personally known people addicted to opioids in my lifetime. They were people with successful careers, and the resources to maintain a middle-class lifestyle.

Others are not so lucky: those who live with poverty, particularly our black and brown Oregonians. Many of them experience houselessness. Their drug use becomes publicly visible, and they are easy and available targets for law enforcement.

Incarceration is not a solution for addiction; treatment is. To the extent that HB 4002 improves access to treatment that's positive. Recriminalizing possession will only waste additional police resources and taxpayer dollars, while doing nothing to actually reduce addiction, public drug use or the tragic epidemic of overdoses.

I urge the legislature to take meaningful action to solve our crisis, not harming vulnerable communities by pulling them into the criminal justice system.

I urge the committee to vote NO on any measures that would recriminalize possession.