

Submitter: Brynn Devereux

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My name is Brynn Devereux. I'm a certified Peer Support Specialist, a recovery mentor, as well as a CADC-R counseling addicts. I have my own extensive addiction history which was nearly fully based in family of origin trauma wrapped up within my transgender identity. For over 25 years I struggled in the state of Texas trying to get clean and deal with my trauma and just "live right." It took me uprooting my entire existence to OR where I found measure 110 and the recovery model rather than the medical model like Texas. I have been arrested more times than I care to count. Did over 3 years in a maximum unit prison, where upon release, guess what? I went right back to heroin because there were NO services to access to deal with my stuff. Since coming to OR, I not only have stayed clean, I have become a leader in the recovery movement, getting my certifications and using my ugly as medicine for others.

Healthcare isn't a crime. One cannot legislate morality. When one can only receive services at the end of a stick, it makes desiring such services quite unpalatable to the recipient. Pretty much all humans simply want to exist happily and peacefully. However, it seems that not everyone gets a good foundation in what is or is not a healthy manner to cope or live. So to punish one for simply continuing behavior patterns modeled from family of origin, not caught or countered throughout the school systems, seems cruel when they weren't taught better. I have found that given the tools and option to recover, most addicts will choose recovery. Very few want to return to the misery that addiction causes. This doesn't even consider the fentanyl and analogue epidemic. More and wider access to MAT (medication assisted therapy) is required for us to get out of this opioid crisis. There are very few individuals who can overcome the physical sensations of being "dope sick" on opiates, heroin and fentanyl especially. It often takes multiple years to get stable and successfully detox. To give up on this program so soon, would be a literal death sentence for untold Oregonians who are already suffering. Please don't take away their hope as I desperately think measure 110 is a great idea but implemented poorly. Please give this program an adequate chance to prove to be the success I know it can be. Thank you for your time