

To: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
Re: In Opposition of HB 4002
Date: February 8, 2024

I urge you to oppose HB 4002.

HB 4002 continues to perpetuate the flaws of Measure 110. There needs to be a strong deterrent to the use of hard drugs, such as a Class A misdemeanor crime classification and mandatory drug treatment. A Class C misdemeanor classification equates the seriousness of hard drug use to the failure to carry a driver's license, a 'slap on the hand'. And Measure 110 has shown that a voluntary drug treatment approach fails. There needs to be incentive for people to get treatment. We need to prioritize diversion, treatment, and recovery but there needs to be the other option, prosecution, and jail, for people to act. Portland has become the mecca for drug dealers and too many people have died from drug overdose.

I urge you to oppose HB 4002 and support HB 4036 and SB 1555.

Thank you,
Melissa Laird
Washington County