

Submitter: Tara Barling

On Behalf Of: The War against certain drug consumers

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear Co-Chairs, Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee,
My name is Tara Barling. I am a mother who advocates for those who consume drugs for various reasons and are impacted by the War on Drugs, which is actually a war on those who consume drugs.

I have pondered and pondered and racked my brain on the how and the why is this barbaric treatment of a certain sector of drug consumers even back on the table... and due to my desire to no longer sanitise my feelings and language to encourage this cruelty to be copacetic for society...I am laying out the reason plain and simple. Greed. Its greed guised as concern. The war on the people who consume drugs is a multi-billion-dollar industry. The Godsend of Measure 110 is the first blow to this Goliath. No war = No money.

A component of the solution (that is being squashed) to mitigate open air/ in public view drug consumption is quite simple and effective. Set up Overdose Prevention Sites or as I like to call them, Safe Consumption Sites. We already do this with another previously prohibited substance. They are called Bars. People go and consume a safe and regulated supply of alcohol and this needs to be replicated for drug consumers and Portland had a Narcotic's Clinic roughly a 100 years ago and it worked beautifully.

In conclusion, I would like to interject a few more adjectives to describe what we already acknowledge as some of the most vulnerable among us. They are beautiful, brilliant, artistic, spiritual, kind, compassionate, tender-hearted and selfless, doing their very best in a system, willfully, intentionally and purposefully against them. They are truly some of the most exquisite human beings I know. I can't stand by and watch them die from an intentionally failed system or watch the system profit from their despair.

Please do what is Right. Be on the Correct side of History. Not only leave Measure 110 alone as is, expand upon it. Give us more time. The horrific War on these people has had over 50 years to prove its disgusting point. At least give us 10. This IS the RIGHT action to take.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you.

God Bless you,

Tara Barling