



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Lucetta Elmer  
House District 24

February 9, 2024

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

I want to express my full support for House Bill 4036, the **only bill** introduced this session that adequately addresses Measure 110. When we talk about the addiction crisis in Oregon, a lot of attention is put on how this is impacting Portland. However, there are many rural districts, like mine in Yamhill County, that are also struggling due to this devastating policy.

Last year, at Willamina High School, fentanyl was smoked in a school bathroom, causing a Yamhill County Deputy, as well as a student, to be sent to the hospital. In my community of McMinnville, 1 person passed away and 6 others were hospitalized at one time from suspected overdoses. And in June, a fentanyl exposure impacted 20 people at the Northwest Senior and Disability Services Center in McMinnville.

In December, I hosted a roundtable with several community leaders in my district to discuss Oregon's addiction crisis. The stories shared were heartbreaking: Law enforcement officers telling parents they lost their child to an overdose. Sheriff agencies no longer being able to acknowledge 'Narcan Saves' because they cannot keep up with the number of deputies administering it. And parents no longer knowing how to talk to their kids about drugs because they have become acceptable in the State of Oregon.

**House Bill 4036** gets back to the basics by reinstating criminal penalties to a Class A Misdemeanor, an offense equivalent to that of a drunk driver, and mandates addiction treatment. We know that when someone is in the depths of addiction, they require accountability to get the help they need. And finally, this legislation bans public drug use which has wreaked havoc on our streets.

We need to give our law enforcement and prosecutors the tools they need to do their jobs. While I was disappointed there was not the political will to address this crisis during the 2023 Legislative Session, I am grateful that this is a conversation now being had. However, the proof is not in words or the creation of a committee, but in action. **House Bill 4036** is the legislation we need to end this crisis.

Sincerely,

State Representative for House District 24