

Submitter: Matan Goodblatt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Matan Goodblatt. I'm a public defense attorney in Multnomah County, and I live in Portland, Oregon. I am also a life-long Oregonian. I was raised in Portland and received both of my degrees from the University of Oregon. My family and many of my close friends still reside in Portland. I am deeply invested and committed, personally and professionally, to the State of Oregon.

I am opposed to HB 4002 on a personal and professional level because I believe it will negatively impact Oregonians in many ways. Addiction is not a crime, it is a healthcare issue. Oregon can and must do better than HB 4002 to address the addictions crisis. HB 4002 is an inadequate and harmful approach that will not solve our addictions crisis and will instead waste taxpayer dollars. The proper path forward is to develop better infrastructure for providing resources to individuals suffering from addiction and addiction related issues.

I am also opposed because we know that HB 4002 will inflict more government harm and violence on Black and brown communities. Black and brown Oregonians will be arrested at higher rates and be most likely to face incarceration and harsher sentencing.

Finally, HB 4002 will deepen the very troubling public defense crisis that we are in the midst of. More criminal proceedings will only place a greater burden on public defenders, which will negatively impact system-involved folks.

For those reasons, I oppose HB 4002 and ask that you do as well. We can and must do better. Thank you for your time.