



February 9, 2024

Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
Representative Jason Kropf, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf,

The City of Springfield appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 4002 and the -1 amendments. We recognize that the ongoing debate around recriminalization is complex and nuanced and appreciate the direction of this legislation, including the additional tools provided to our local law enforcement officials via recriminalization while also emphasizing access to, and availability of, treatment.

We need our local law enforcement officers to have the strongest tools possible that can compel individuals to enter and ultimately complete treatment for their behavioral health needs. As a city, we have been focused on how to support personal accountability and secure more comprehensive treatment for a population with more intense needs than we've seen historically. In reviewing the language, we are unclear how the proposed C-Misdemeanor is meaningfully different than an E-citation in helping us achieve these goals. What it will do is create more of an administrative burden at the local level but to what end is unclear.

Similarly, we are concerned about the proposed deflection programs. We agree that the focus should be on treatment for individuals suffering from substance use disorder, however, the pathway to treatment needs to be strengthened and it needs to be resourced, neither of which is assured in the proposal. A program that consists of an assessment followed by one additional contact is insufficient to ensure a person's path to treatment and we question whether this will lead to more people actually receiving the services they need.

We are appreciative of the fix to the Boyd/Hubble issue and are generally supportive of enhancing enforcement and penalties for crimes involving delivery and larger amounts of possession. We also appreciate that there is recognition of the funding needed for treatment and recovery, however, most, if not all, of the elements in the -1 amendments will require increased administrative support, collaboration, and coordination between multiple entities at the city, county and state levels. It does not appear that the budget impacts of the additional workload is factored into the proposed funding, which likely falls far short of what will be needed statewide.

The City of Springfield strongly believes that we must focus on a system that is based on collaboration between the behavioral health system and law enforcement and we appreciate that this is the direction of HB 4002-1. Locally, we look to tools like the newly launched

Springfield Municipal Adult Rehabilitation and Treatment (SMART) Court whose intent is to capitalize on the decades of specialty court research to provide comprehensive treatment for individuals in our criminal justice system. The Treatment Court will partner with Lane County Parole and Probation, Quality Research Associates, Emergence, Springfield City Prosecutor, the public defender, and the Springfield Police Department to staff this program. The court's purpose is to provide a dual pronged approach for individuals to tackle their substance use or co-occurring disorder as well as providing support and structure to change their life circumstances.

The City of Springfield appreciate the efforts of all of those involved in this effort and we recognize the hard work that it represents. However, we have to get this right for our communities and for the people who have dedicated themselves to serving those communities. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean VanGordon". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "S" and "V" and a trailing flourish.

Sean VanGordon
Mayor, City of Springfield