

February 9, 2024

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee,

My name is Chelsea Farleigh. I have been a social worker for over eleven years, and I live in Lake Oswego.

As a social worker, I have worked closely with individuals suffering from addiction and their families. I have seen, first-hand, the devastating impact criminalization has on this vulnerable population. We have fifty years of data to demonstrate that criminalization does not work. Coerced treatment does not work. Criminalizing drug use will harm those suffering from addiction. And it will harm our Black and brown communities at a disproportionate rate.

Addiction is not a crime. It is a healthcare issue. I urge lawmakers to do better than HB 4002.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chelsea Farleigh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Chelsea Farleigh