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Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

The reason homelessness is so visible and prominent in Oregon, compared to other places, is that unfortunately Oregon is one of the states with lower expenditures per capita on mental health AND housing - compounding both crisis. West Virginia for example, has similar rates of addiction, but not the same rates of homelessness.

Measure 110 required two things:

- 1) the State needed to create a large number of new treatment resources, including low-barrier options, outpatient options, and residential options with wraparound services to help people get a new start.
- 2) Police needed to take on a new role by referring people they found in possession of drugs to these new treatment options.

Neither of these took place. Instead we all got a "kicker" two years in a row, when we desperately need to fund key services like detox and mental health, vocational training, etc. Instead, what we are seeing is the defunding of successful programs like Portland Street Response and the lack of services.

To further criminalize people with substance use disorders is not the solution to addiction and misery. How can it be that we are now treating prisons and jails as mental health facilities?

The proposals at hand in the will only add more work to underfunded and understaffed public defenders, more work to social workers and case managers instead of investing in behavioral health, housing and social services.

This is one of the most ineffective and inhumane ways to address what is in effect a huge social and health crisis.

We strongly oppose recriminalization bills HB 4002, HB 4036, and SB 1555.

Sincerely,

**Nathalie Paravicini**  
CoChair State Coordinating Committee