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**Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon**

February 9, 2023

Chairs Lieber, Kropf, and members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon writes today in opposition of HB 4002. We stand with our reproductive justice partners who have long proclaimed that the fight for justice and equity does not end with having the right to make reproductive and sexual health decisions. That fight must include advocating for people to have the power and resources necessary to support themselves and raise their families in safe environments and healthy communities, with equitable access to justice, education, and opportunity.

HB 4002 could potentially cause further harm and adverse health effects to people experiencing addiction. County jails are currently seeing record deaths among people in custody — including by drug overdose — and do not have the ability to safely manage fentanyl withdrawals. After going through excruciating pain, people will be released back to the streets, which is the most dangerous time for overdose risk.

PPAO is also concerned that HB 4002 will create additional strain on an already overburdened criminal legal system that causes disproportionate harm to women, BIPOC Oregonians, and people living in poverty. The number of women imprisoned in the Oregon Department of Corrections has nearly tripled over the past 20 years, despite the fact that women are not committing more frequent or serious crimes.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the passage of Measure 110, one driver of these increased rates of incarceration was changes in sentencing laws, related to certain drug and property crimes, which have disproportionately impacted women of color.<sup>2</sup> A larger proportion of justice-involved women have experienced sexual abuse and/or other forms of victimization, family violence, unhealthy relationships, unsafe housing, and are of low socioeconomic status.<sup>3</sup>

According to a 2019 report by the Vera Institute, 63% of Oregon's jail detainees were incarcerated pre-trial.<sup>4</sup> HB 4002 threatens to add to a case load that is already unmanageable for existing public defenders, and further isolate and disrupt the lives of individuals struggling with addiction. Our current corrections systems often deny basic rights such as access to quality reproductive and maternal health care,<sup>5</sup> as well as regular family contact and support.

Many adults in custody who have mental health care needs are not consistently provided pharmacotherapy and other forms of treatment. Only 11% of adults in custody diagnosed with substance abuse disorder receive treatment for it. Nationwide, only 54% of those pregnant upon admission in a state prison reported receiving any type of pregnancy care.<sup>6</sup> According to a recent report by the Oregon Justice Resource Center, the number of women in Oregon County jails has increased 17-fold since 1970.<sup>7</sup> That same report laid out significant barriers to detainees' ability to access time-sensitive abortion care while incarcerated.

We *do* support the behavioral health provisions of HB 4002 and applaud the committee's efforts to expand local access to treatment services such as mobile crisis teams, emergency intervention services, and crisis stabilization services. We encourage the committee to build on these aspects of the bill and increase withdrawal

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/crime/2017/02/16/oregon-faces-skyrocketing-female-prison-population/98012786/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.vera.org/downloads/pdfdownloads/state-incarceration-trends-oregon.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.naacp.org/criminal-justice-fact-sheet/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2019/12/05/oregancv/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/524b5617e4b0b106ced5f067/t/6543dfd100f4f70bb9d40471/1698947030715/OJRC\\_23\\_AbortionAccessInJails\\_report+v.23.10.31.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/524b5617e4b0b106ced5f067/t/6543dfd100f4f70bb9d40471/1698947030715/OJRC_23_AbortionAccessInJails_report+v.23.10.31.pdf)

management, detox, recovery and sober housing, and other services that are causing waitlists across the state for care and causing our addiction and overdose crisis.

We believe the funding from Measure 110 should be directed to expansion of treatment and services, not the carceral system.

For these reasons, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon opposed HB 4002 and respectfully asks the committee to make needed changes.

Sincerely,

Cassie Purdy  
Political Director  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon