



Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

Officers
President
Katharine Marshall, MD **Vice President**
David Simmons, MD, FASAM
Immediate Past President
Eowyn Rieke, MD, FASAM
Policy Chair
Moxie J. Loeffler, DO, MPH, FASAM
Secretary Julie
Byler, MD **Treasurer**
Bradley Buchheit, MD

February 9, 2024

Re: Relating to the addiction crisis in this state – HB 4002

Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf and Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Safety Response:

As a community of medical providers who care for patients with Substance Use Disorder (SUD), the Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine (ORSAM) supports SUD and Behavioral Health provisions of House Bill 4002. However, we are very concerned about the potential recriminalization of drug use and we oppose that portion of the bill.

ORSAM is our state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. We have over one hundred members who work with people suffering from SUD.

- We applaud your efforts towards the following ORSAM goals:
- Cover all FDA-approved meds for SUD without prior authorization or utilization review.
- CCOs cover the costs of buy and bill and specialty pharmacy, including any specialty pharmacy of the clinician's choice (because some of them deliver too slowly).
- Allow pharmacists to refill buprenorphine for patients who state that they have an OUD diagnosis.
- Protect people from getting evicted from recovery housing based on preliminary drug testing.
- Require skilled nursing facilities to accept patients who take buprenorphine or methadone if they are licensed to administer other controlled substances.
- Require housing programs to admit people regardless of the medications they take (so long as it can be stored safely and administered in compliance with a facility's license).
- SUD and BH care ought to be covered with parity compared with all other medical care.
- Expungement of criminal records will help patients attend school, obtain housing and jobs. Avoiding legal charges for drug possession is more reliable and effective going forward thanks to Measure 110.

Criminalizing drug use was an experiment that failed. We oppose legal penalties for substance use because:

- Deflection and mandatory treatment is minimally helpful and potentially harmful.
- We lack a system for deflection at this time.
- Increasing penalties for drug possession only adds burdens for people who have a medical condition. They need support, not more obstacles.
- People of color will suffer disproportionately if drug possession is recriminalized.

We look forward to continuing to work together with your Committee to promote best practices and to reduce harm to our patients and Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Moxie Loeffler, DO, MPH, FASAM
Policy Chair and Past President, Oregon Society of Addiction Medicine