



To: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
RE: Oppose House Bill 4002

February 7, 2024

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, Members of the Committee –

I join the 3,000 Oregonians you received [petitions from](#) calling for a full repeal of Measure 110. Since its passage, Measure 110 has had disastrous consequences for the people of Oregon, with a 67 percent increase in fentanyl deaths last year - the highest in the nation. In addition, drug-related deaths among teenagers increased faster in Oregon than anywhere else in the United States between 2019 and 2021 — up 666%. These are *not* statistics we should be proud of.

House Bill 4002 will not do enough to save lives. We need a proposal that gives our law enforcement community and prosecutors the tools they need to do their jobs. They have been clear that this legislation will continue to limit their ability to do so.

I believe the proposed “fix” within House Bill 4002 is an attempt to salvage a fundamentally broken and pro-drug system with new bureaucracy and no significant changes to how we encourage people to get treatment. A Class C Misdemeanor charge, which amounts to 30 days of jail time, is simply not enough to rescue someone out of the depths of addiction.

The number one goal of Oregon’s behavioral health system should be achieving sobriety and long-term recovery for those that are suffering - our current system is not doing that. Currently, drug use and drug possession by minors are legal under Measure 110, making the consequences for minors in possession for alcohol more severe than meth, cocaine, or fentanyl. This is a glaring oversight and must be addressed.

Measure 110 is fundamentally broken from the top down. House Bill 4002 is not the solution Oregonians are demanding. The Legislature has a responsibility to put politics aside and get our state moving in A New Direction.

Sincerely,

Christine Drazan
Founder, A New Direction