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On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

In 2020, a nationwide mass hysteria event fueled by the media, followed by unfounded demands of a relative few Oregon citizens, caused elected leaders in the State of Oregon to take unprecedented action and reduced funding to our law enforcement, our public safety. Additionally, in 2020, ill-informed voters passed the "decriminalize drugs" measure. Many "social justice warriors" celebrated the "bold action" in these decisions. The "summer of love" will be forever emblazoned in Oregon history. The result?

Portland averaged 21 homicides a year between 2020 and 2019. The body count in 2022 was 92. Portland's homicide numbers reached 101 in 2022. In 2023: 74 - in Portland alone!

In 2021, despite being largely "defunded" the Oregon Legislature revised "public safety" training to provide "equity training".(among other "social justice" provisions). More bureaucracy, less actual "public safety".

The relationship between these actions cannot be ignored.

Now, in 2024, lawmakers (we presume under pressure by the same "leaders" who caused these challenges) are now proposing a constitutional amendment creating yet another bureaucrat agency and a new tax to address the problems.

I respectfully submit to the House Committee on Rules that peace-loving, law-abiding, hardworking Oregonians are over-taxed, under represented, and fed up with the quid pro quo of our state administrative and government agencies and leadership. There is little transparency, accountability, and qualifications required in our state agencies. Many of us wonder which friend, partner, spouse, coworker, or colleague of an existing "leader" will be "appointed" to run this new agency, with the salary of 3 or 4 Oregon taxpayers combined. The proposed amendment does not address how the agency is managed and by whom; merely, "Legislative Assembly shall create..". The average Oregonian receives less and less from our state, little to no return on our investment (taxes), and are left fending for ourselves; while criminals (and bureaucrats alike!) are taking advantage of our tax dollars and lack of "public safety" that our state agencies and leadership caused.

Property owners have been footing the bill for bad leadership decisions; particularly since 1987 when the entire state ceased cooperating with federal immigration enforcement. Since 2021, record levels of illicit and deadly drugs have continued to pour into our state by the same criminals seeking sanctuary in it. We continue to see "record-breaking amount of drugs seized" as a common headline in our local papers

for years now. Oregonians are no longer "protected" by those charged with that responsibility. Oregon taxpayers are merely the heads that politicians stand on to get to that coveted political spotlight.

Oregon leadership needs to take a good hard look at what put us in this predicament, and take bold action to reverse course and protect the taxpaying citizens of Oregon, A constitutional amendment creating yet another state agency is not bold action. A new tax a cowardly method to address the results of the aforementioned abysmal decisions.

This voter and taxpayer is strongly opposed to HJR 201, and urge a "NO" from my representatives on it.