

Submitter: Travis Noddings

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Please listen to the people living on the streets and the folks in case management and outreach that work with them everyday. We KNOW re-criminalization will harm them and make it that much more impossible to house them and get them into treatment. They NEED treatment and housing, not arrests, not harassment, and not sweeps.

We KNOW from reporting that the number one barrier to moving folks from living on the street downtown into housing was lack off access to substance use treatment, read about it in the Oregonian: <https://www.oregonlive.com/portland/2024/02/why-multnomah-countys-plan-to-move-hundreds-of-homeless-campers-into-apartments-utterly-failed-to-meet-its-goals.html>

More folks living by the Steel Bridge would have gotten into housing if not for lack of treatment resources and the final sweep that completely scattered those that were being helped by Transition Projects.

Treatment capacity is just recently increasing and we need to focus on bolstering it further, not upending the already difficult process of directly serving those on the street. Please protect our houseless neighbors by maintaining decriminalization and funding immediate capacity of addiction treatment.