

Submitter: Stephen a Johnson

On Behalf Of: Don't criminalize addiction

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

There are homeless people, many of whom are drug addicts living in squalor on the streets of Portland who are a danger to themselves & others. These are people in wretched conditions who make life in downtown difficult.

There have not been facilities & funding to provide treatment. State authorities have been allowing drugs to cross state borders transported by gangs. The housing market has not been open for construction of affordable living for struggling working people. Laws should provide for criminal penalties only if offenders refuse treatment. These serious conditions have resulted in a compounded set of problems.

City & state governments, our economic community, & our medical professionals are not working together. They appear to be in silos trying to solve problems in a limited manner. That is not a solution.