

Submitter: Mustafa Hussain  
On Behalf Of: Don't criminalize addiction  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure: HB4002

Dear Lawmakers,

I understand that you are under pressure right now from constituents who have expressed discomfort with the level of public drug use in some of our communities, but I urge you consider alternatives to HB 4002 and HB 4036, which will impede efforts to address the problem.

I am writing as a constituent who is working to become a psilocybin facilitator. Many of the clients seeking services are struggling with drug use, and many of those people cannot afford psilocybin services. I am highly concerned that HB 4002 and HB 4036 will impede efforts to use psilocybin to address drug use in 2 ways:

First, by increasing the stigma around drug use, HB 4002 and HB 4036 will raise social barriers to those seeking services, and make it more difficult to develop the client-facilitator openness and trust which is needed for healing to take place.

Second, because formal psilocybin services are expensive, informal facilitation (such as with friends-of-friends) remains the only available option for those without access to payment. HB 4002 and HB 4036 will have a chilling effect on informal practices.

I would suggest taking additional constructive actions in while allowing Measure 110-related efforts more time. For example, since Oregon now has supervised indoor use sites for psilocybin, and since we have long had supervised indoor use sites for alcohol, it may be time to consider also creating safe indoor use sites for opioids and amphetamines, as other cities have already done.

After all, most the complaints have not been about drug use in general, but about outdoor drug use specifically. If the drug use takes place indoors, it isn't taking place outdoors.

I hope this is helpful. Thank you for considering the voices and needs of all Oregonians.