

Submitter: Proud Oregonian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

As a business owner who spends 40+ hours a week in Portland, and a Gresham resident who volunteers at least 5 hours a week in Historic Downtown Gresham, I have seen first-hand the negative effects of Measure 110. I used to love coming to Portland in my free time as it was a safe, clean and beautiful city. This is no longer the case. The hardship M110 has inflicted on people suffering from drug addiction, local business owners and everyday citizens has taken an immeasurable toll on Portland, Gresham and the great state of Oregon. The current law is far too lax and doesn't incentivize people to seek treatment. Period. It has also attracted people to come to Oregon as we are seen as an "anything goes" state where self destruction is encouraged and the crime required to feed addiction won't be prosecuted. The sad reality that no one seems to want to admit is that people hooked on fentanyl require tough love to get better. An optional telephone helpline and ticket equivalent to a parking offense, doesn't, and will never, steer people into the treatment they need to get better. I implore Salem to enhance Measure 110 to make treatment mandatory, ban public drug use, and enforce real, concrete deterrents. It will not only improve our image and restore our urban cores, but most importantly, it will save lives from needless suffering.