

Submitter: Carolyn Piszczek

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I initially voted for the decriminalization of drugs bc I trusted that it would be implemented well and safeguards put in place as the need became evident. Unfortunately, the decriminalization of drugs in Oregon has been a disaster, not out of necessity (it has overall worked well in places like Portugal), but bc of poor preparation, execution, and weak local leaders that lack pragmatism and the ability to comprehensively manage the individual and community impact of drug abuse. These same leaders have been blindly forging ahead, unwilling to identify problems and implement solutions. The infrastructure and political will to make decriminalization successful from an individual drug abuser and a community impact perspective are not in place and will not be in place as long as our current local leaders occupy their positions. The only answer is a bill like this that puts in place strict guidelines for treatment or legal consequences. Unfortunately, this is the only answer since misguided far-left politicians (like DA Mike Schmidt and Multnomah county chair Jessica Vega Pederson) are unwilling to put reasonable guardrails in place to protect those suffering from drug addiction as well as keep communities safe and thriving. A bill with more nuance and leeway will be unsuccessful for the same reasons measure 110 has been a disaster.