

To: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety  
Re: HB 4002

I applaud the efforts so far to correct the fallout of Measure 110.

It is no secret that Measure 110 has caused significant problems throughout Oregon and that majority of Oregon voters support recriminalizing personal possession of drugs while making treatment required. Drug abuse not only affects the lives of those who take them, but they impose terrible externalities on the rest of the population. The carrot offered by 110 to seek treatment has not motivated action. A more significant penalty needs to be imposed to incent people to seek treatment.

Action now is urgent. While the revised HB 4002 may not be perfect, it will set us on a right track. The most important features of the final overhaul of 110 must be a stiff enough penalty to lead people to required evidence-based treatment. The solution also needs to give local governments the tools and funding to address not only the drug abusers but their dealers as well.

I believe the solution must be driven by local governments. Although the final program might be monitored by the State, it must not be administered by the State. Local governments understand their local populations and their local capabilities. If funded and empowered, local governments will provide more flexible solutions resulting in a more efficient and effective response.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Susan Pozdena  
Washington County