

Submitter: Linda Witt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Please pass HB 4002 as soon as possible. Keeping the status quo means more needless deaths on the streets. We must stop - ASAP - enabling the destructive behavior of the addicts and the mentally ill. We need to HELP them with tough love that gets them off the streets - out of their dangerous lifestyles - and into treatment, leading to safe shelter and productive lives. Addicts CAN turn their lives around, but not if we don't propel them toward treatment.

I understand that everyone has rights. But we cannot allow the vulnerable to DIE through our negligence of the reality of their situation. A recent article showed that 99% of the persons that the county tried to move into housing REFUSED to do so, because they were more comfortable perpetuating their dangerous living situations on the street. So it's increasingly obvious that voluntary cooperation won't improve the situation - it is just causing more people to decline and precipitate their deaths.

Pass HB 4002 as soon as possible - it will go a long way toward reducing deaths of addicts, helping them to recovery through tough love, and improving the livability of the city for ALL RESIDENTS.