

Submitter: Mark Booth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

To address the crisis in drug use, addiction and attendant crime and deaths in the Portland area and Oregon:

While I am extremely reluctant to promote the legislature overturning a law passed by a vote of the people, in Measure 110 I need to make an exception.

Measure 110, improperly titled and misleading in its focus, continues to be a ballooning failure. Much of that failure can be laid at the feet of Salem and, in this area, the Multnomah County Commission.

Decriminalizing drug use and possession in hard drugs was obviously wrong-headed. And the State and County have not stepped up to provide necessary treatment to cure habitual users. Further, we now have criminal cartels, aided and abetted by the State's lax attitude toward law enforcement, taking over the distribution of those harmful drugs.

Measure 110 has to be repealed.

House Bill 4002 As Amended is a step back to the right direction.

The possession and use of those drugs such as heroin, meth and fentanyl should be a Class A misdemeanor, and the penalties thereto substantial enough to allow for true incentive for those taking those drugs to Seriously consider a treatment option and allow for law enforcement to actually place users in an environment where they will be helped.

The State and County need to do what they have failed to do: provide appropriate treatment facilities and staff designed to get people off those drugs.

But those affected users who are unwilling to use those facilities need to be placed where they will not harm themselves or society further, and where they will learn to thrive again.

Any law permitting the nonsense of "harm reduction" should be repealed and those who aid in drug addiction by providing those items to drug users should be imprisoned.

Thank you.