

Submitter: David Anderson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Beaverton, and co-owner of a small business located near both a year-round homeless shelter, and a low-income housing complex that recently came online. Since the passage of Measure 110, I have personally witnessed a marked increase in the intensity and frequency of aggressive and threatening behavior from random members of the public, specifically those tied to both the shelter and low-income complex.

In several cases, residents of each have directly threatened my business, my employees, my guests, and my partner. Local law enforcement have confirmed the individuals' locations of residence to the shelter and complex.

While it goes without saying that drug abuse and mental health issues are each distinct, and the needs of our community to be housed must be treated with care and respect, the fact that I, my partner, my team, and my guests have all directly witnessed a considerable increase in frequency of threatening behaviors beginning when Measure 110 passed, cannot be ignored.

Additionally, local law enforcement, speaking with us all on condition of anonymity, have unanimously stated that Measure 110 makes it nearly impossible for them to do anything unless a suspect has been caught committing a prosecutable felony. They have gone on to say it is easier to arrest someone for jaywalking, then pick them up off the street for smoking crack or fentanyl in public.

As our business is located in a community-friendly dining district, this means hard and dangerous drug use is occurring withing breathing distance of families, children, and patrons of ours and other establishments. Since the increase in this behavior, we have not only seen an increase in dangerous scenarios for our guests, but also a decrease in community members frequenting the area as a whole.

We have heard first-hand from many neighboring regulars, who live around or on the other side of the shelter, that they do not feel safe walking the streets of Old Town Beaverton because of all the drug use. After dark, the area is not considered walkable. This issue has also been spoken about ad verbatim by concerned parents of the St. Cecilia school, which is located next to the homeless shelter on 5th and Angel Street in Beaverton, across from the City Library.

The issue overriding all, is the concern about drug use. And most people we have spoken to feel it is due to Measure 110, and it needs to be repealed immediately.

We call on State leadership to do what is necessary to repeal Measure 110, through the passage of HB 4002, and begin the process of restoring safety and security to all Oregon communities. Enforcement of penalties for hard drug use is a necessary tool for law enforcement. Please, do the right thing, and act on this.

Thank you,

David Anderson