

Submitter: Michael Kaplan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Please pass HB 4002. The so called decriminalization approach has contributed to the deaths of countless Oregonians and minimal voluntary treatment. The Portland downtown has been ravaged by open drug use (just blocks from the site of my former office). As an MS in Educational Psychology and a former Certified Alcohol-Drug Counselor, I worked in both public and private sector with individuals with persistent mental illness and/or alcohol/drug disorders. I worked in this field for decades. I can assure you I have never seen as dire a situation as currently exists in Portland (and rest of Oregon), secondary to the misguided decriminalization approach. It is not compassionate, and despite claims to the contrary, it is not evidenced based. Please restore common sense and more evidenced approaches.