

Submitter: Joel Kellner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Empathetic and reasonable citizens of this state do not want to simply penalize people for their addiction as a way to undo measure 110. Rather, the same empathetic and reasonable citizens understand that people with addictions, and even moreso those with addictions that are mentally unwell, nearly always make poor decisions. It is why Measure 110 failed so badly: nearly nobody elected treatment even when offered.

Caring families and friends will have "interventions" with these types of people, but not because they are trying to punish them. They understand that tolerance and/or facilitation of the problem is the most uncaring thing they can do for those they care about. They understand that actions that feel hard or cruel on first glance are likely the first kind things that these troubled people will face.

So it is on the societal level: proper incentives need to be in place so that impaired individuals will be compelled to seek the care they need. It is time for the ACLU and other well meaning activists to accept the reality that has played out countless times. It is time to rid ourselves of ideological misconceptions and accept the reality on the street, the reality that plays itself out in the same manner, to the same people, over and over. Not only will these unfortunate individuals eventually thank you, but so too will the rest of the citizens of the state who have been unfairly left to deal with the aftermath and coexisting fallout of this public health crisis.