

To: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
Re: In Support of HB 4002
Date: February 26, 2024

I am writing to thank you for working hard to fix Measure 110 this legislative session. I support HB 4002 and encourage you to make sure HB 4002 is robust enough to make meaningful changes.

The drug decriminalization experiment has failed and it's time to recriminalize hard drugs with enough consequences to motivate people to get help. Diversion, treatment, and recovery over incarceration is the correct priority. Jail is no place for people in crisis. Mandatory, evidence-based drug treatment as an alternative to a jail sentence of up to 6 months is a fair start.

Local drug treatment facilities need to expand and do so without the heavy hand of a large, state driven infrastructure. The monies need to flow into the counties where their ability to create community-based pathways to treatment, recovery support services, housing, case management or other services can be optimized for their community. Please make sure HB 4002 empowers the counties and does not create unfunded mandates.

HB 4002 also gives local governments tools to ban the use of drugs in public, and law enforcement stronger tools to go after drug dealers and traffickers. Thank you.

It's time to fix the drug addiction and mental health crisis that Measure 110 did not create but has fueled. The bipartisan efforts are appreciated by law enforcement, cities, counties, local businesses, and 70+% of Oregonians, including me. I encourage you to make sure the changes in HB 4002 will make meaningful progress toward getting our public health and public safety ecosystems back on track.

Thank you,
Melissa Laird
Washington County