

Submitter: Adam Franks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear Lawmakers,

Portland, Oregon used to be a city that felt safe. All that changed with the proposal and approval of Measure 110. A measure that was poorly designed from the beginning, the science and infrastructure were never there to support the passing of such a measure. More damage has been caused by this measure than can ever be repaired, and still it has been allowed to continue. Proponents say that guilt and shame should not be felt by those experiencing drug and chemical dependency, that they should not be confined to the shadows; but experience and logic inform us those feelings act as internal catalysts for change and often when nothing else will. By trying to remove guilt and shame from addicts' harmful behaviors, you are stripping them of human emotions that exist for specific reasons - as deterrents from continuing specific behaviors that harm ourselves and those around us. Combine that with low fines that won't be paid and a lack of prosecution, and you've created a perfect storm for criminals to run rampant and overrun the city, which is exactly what has happened. Supporters of Measure 110 have let compassion outweigh common sense, and it has to stop. I urge you to once again make using hard drugs such as fentanyl, methamphetamine, and heroin a significant criminal act with significant consequences, including jail time. So many deaths, including young ones, continue to happen daily because of the decriminalization of these dangerous drugs. By allowing this to continue, you are causing serious physical and emotional damage to law-abiding citizens and forcing them against their will to abide the behavior and actions of criminals. The fear and anxiety created by having to live in Portland under this measure and current leadership have lasting effects. Not only are you enabling criminals by giving them tools to do harm to themselves and calling it "harm reduction," but you are doing permanent damage to those of us who have built this city up and contributed to its well-being. You are causing serious emotional damage, trauma, and undue stress to the entire population. Abolish Measure 110 and save the lives of those who actually want to be saved.