

Submitter: Tracy Russell
On Behalf Of: Support for HB
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
Measure: HB4002

To our Oregon legislature, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony in support of HB 4002. I am a native, tax paying resident of Oregon, the mother of three adult children and a grandmother to a 3-year-old. I have 5 sisters and a brother who also live in Oregon where they too raise their families. I have family members and friends who have been directly affected by the tragedy of the drug abuse epidemic that has devastated our state over the past decade. I personally know young people who have died from unknowingly taking a fake Fentanyl pill, and their parents, and have seen the collateral damage that our communities have endured as a result. I am dismayed and frustrated at the seeming lack of concern and inaction that has been the common response to this crisis by members of our state's leadership. I did not, and do not support measure 110 for all the predictable reasons that have played out over the past several years since its passing. Ultimately, as is usually the case in life, predictable is preventable.

I believe that the people of Oregon were misled, lied to and literally sold a "bill of goods" when they passed Ballot measure 110. The salespeople were members and supporters of an out of state funded organization known as the Drug Policy Alliance whose agenda is to legalize drugs everywhere in America. This organization helped fund the campaigns of politician's who would support their agenda in Oregon to create a utopian, drug law free state. They chose Oregon to be the lab test case, the Guinea pig, the canary and here we are now. No one with a soul or a conscience would have voted for such a treacherous law had they known what we know now. Again, frustrating because predictable is preventable.

I am respectfully demanding that you do the right thing, act, quit ignoring the obvious and support passing HB 4002.

Support HB 4002 to recriminalize hard drugs with up to 6 months in jail or mandatory, supervised drug treatment.

Support HB 4002 to replace voluntary drug treatment with required evidence-based treatment as an alternative to jail.

Support HB 4002 to give local governments the tools to ban the use of drugs in public and police and prosecutors' stronger tools to go after drug dealers and traffickers.

Support HB 4002 backed by law enforcement, cities, counties, local businesses, Democrats, Republicans and 73% of Oregonians.

Respectfully, Tracy L. Russell