

Submitter: Leslie Smith

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am a long time resident of NE Portland, having moved here in 1980. I raised two sons in this city and until the past 3 or 4 years loved this city and was proud to be a resident. I did not vote for Measure 110. That is not because I think drug addicts belong in jail, but because it was so POORLY conceived. The notion that basically legalizing drug use without tying it to mandatory rehab was ludicrous to me. The rehab portion of the measure was basically, "trust us, we will come up with something"! The "something" that emerged is too ridiculous to even imagine. People cited with possessing drugs received a \$100 fine which required appearing in court. Assuming any of these drug addicts showed up to pay their fine (what a naive and or completely clueless assumption) they were a 800 hotline number to call if they were interested in drug treatment! What the h--I could the people in our state government been thinking? As is so completely apparent to anyone with a brain, almost no one called the 800 phone number. But that didn't keep the state from spending the ludicrous amount of \$700 per-call to man this completely ineffective hotline. Please support and pass HB 4002 which would recriminalize hard drugs - 180 days in jail OR mandatory, supervised treatment! NO more use of hard drugs in public! You can currently smoke fentanyl on streets and parks but can't drink a beer in public. I have to show an ID at Fred Meyer to buy a bottle of wine OR Sudafed for a sinus infection!!! We need police and prosecutors to have better tools to go after drug traffickers and dealers.

I will end with, this thought. Measure 100 was proposed to be a "different" and, some thought, better approach to drug addiction. IT IS CLEARLY A FAILURE.... DIFFERENT AND BETTER ARE NOT SYNONYMS! Good leaders have the ability to recognize a failure, to admit it is a failure and FIX A FAILURE. Do you have the ability to lead well? If so please pass HB 4002.