

Submitter: Gary Manougian

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Oregon Lawmakers,

I'll be brief and direct. Drug possession and use must be made a crime again. Ask any recovering addict, without the REAL threat of jail time there is no incentive to go into treatment. That is the nature of addiction and its effect on a person's ability to make good decisions. The more serious the potential penalty, the more leverage the system has to persuade the addict to enter treatment and succeed. That is better for the person and our community as it absolutely saves lives and reduces drug related crime.

Your delays so far have cost Oregon and its people greatly, and if continued, may be interpreted as self-serving given the large amounts of money being thrown into this by out of state groups. Kindly act in the interest of the citizens you are supposed to represent and recriminalize drug use and possession. Oregon is also rated near the bottom nationally for treatment availability. I suggest you stop ignoring that reality as well and make some meaningful progress on that topic too.

Its past time to act..