

Submitter: Danielle Spinelli

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am in support of House Bill 4002. I have watched the city that I call home deteriorate under perhaps one of the most misguided and reckless pieces of legislation ever to be imposed on a city: Measure 110.

From the moment that it was proposed, the language and intention of Measure 110 was misleading, and it has continued to frustrate, befuddle, deceive and dishearten so many people who call Portland home.

When you refuse to acknowledge the need for concrete legal ramifications and consequences for hard drug use, you ignoring two key facts: First, addicts often need a catalyst in order to seek help, and it's often legal ramifications that serves as that catalyst. Second, drug addiction has a devastating impact not only on the individual, but on the fabric of our society. Drug addicts often make others unwillingly suffer with them.

At this point, not changing this measure is a refusal and rejection of reality itself. I have felt confused and alarmed that anyone, seeing the state of our city, would choose to continue with the implementation of Measure 110. As you make your decision, I ask you to look with me at our city. Look at the hopelessness, the despair, look at the crime, the loss of life, look at the recklessness, the loss of dignity. Look at what 110 has done.

I stand with Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber, and state Rep. Jason Kropf. I stand with him, when Rep. Kropf says, "What we're saying is what is happening on our streets needs to stop and police are going to play a role in that, and the behavioral health system is going to play a role in that. What we're trying to do is blend those two responses together." I stand with People for Portland and the silent majority of people in this city who are tired of these failed policies. Please pass House Bill 4002. Thank you for your time.