

Submitter: Jared Boe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony.

I live in downtown Portland, and the situation is dire.

Pockets of downtown, which includes my neighborhood on the South Park Blocks, are simply inundated with drug addicts and drug dealers.

This is not a tenable living situation for downtown residents. If nothing changes, you will see a mass exodus from the city center, which is already significantly hollowed out as it is.

We must do our utmost to reverse the permissive drug culture we have allowed to blossom in our communities. We must send a powerful signal that we will not tolerate drugs proliferating on the streets.

The price is too high to let addicts freely consume in public spaces. The attendant crime, pollution and chaos are completely wreaking havoc on the regular machinery of our communities.

I understand that a shortage of public defenders is a popular critique of criminalization. However, a shortage of robust treatment options certainly did not get in the way of Measure 110 becoming law.

Please understand: I voted yes on 110. We, Oregon voters, were led into this predicament believing we were doing the right thing. I abhor any fealty you, our lawmakers, may owe to the out of state interests which are campaigning wildly to maintain current drug policy. The reality on the streets simply does not justify continuing on the path we are currently on.

Speaking for my neighborhood, the Cultural District in downtown Portland, we simply cannot wait for these laws to come into effect. As I began this letter, so I shall finish in the hope that you may understand my meaning: this is not a tenable living situation.

Sincerely,

Jared Boe

Board Chair, Roosevelt Homeowners Association