

Submitter: Daniel Davis

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am a homeowner and father of young children in Portland's outer Buckman neighborhood and I strongly support HB4002 and the changes that it makes to our states policies regarding hard drugs. I voted for BM110 in 2020 and am very regretful of that choice that I, along with many other Oregonians, made. I have seen many things personally that have moved my opinion, but I will share one story here: A few months ago (in Oct. 2023, I believe), my family woke up to find an unresponsive middle-aged man lying across the sidewalk in front of our home and surrounded by his belongings. We called 911 with a possible overdose and street response arrived. At that point, the man woke up enough to tell the responders to go away and that he did not need narcan. The responders left, but the man remained where he was, lying face down on the sidewalk, for another 6 hours. I called 911 again because I was worried that he might have gotten worse - again nothing came of the second encounter with first responders. Hours later, near dusk, the man slowly stood up, gathered his belongings, and stumbled away. I have no idea where he went or what became of him, but I do know that on this day we had a chance to intervene in what was obviously a debilitating drug addiction. And we did nothing. This man needed help but he was not going to ask for it himself. People are not coming back from using the types of drugs available on the streets today without strong compulsive laws.