

Submitter: David W Gray

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

My wife and I live near the McDonald's at NW 19th and Burnside. Our streets are overrun with drug dealers and drug addiction. While our hearts go out to the people who are unhoused, feel hopeless and have turned to drugs, we feel strongly that decriminalization was a move in the wrong direction. Open drug use, urinating and defecation on our property and the streets, loud shouting, fights, overdoses, and the inevitable partying, carousing, and overall use of the streets to handle overflow of things the city is unwilling or unable to handle has taken a heavy toll on our peace of mind, property values and urban life. The streets are covered with trash and drug dealers openly profit from victimizing people. Our city has become a magnet for people who abuse drugs and live on the street. It's like we have advertised our tolerance and people feel there are no consequences for their actions. Drug use should be a criminal offense. A carrot alone is not enough. There need to be consequences to open drug use, the stick and carrot need to work together to solve this problem.