

Submitter: Sara Bateman

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I support making possession of “hard” drugs such as fentanyl and meth a class A misdemeanor or similar. I support off-ramps to provide people with treatments options as an alternative to jail time. I believe we need a carrot AND a stick to help people who are facing addiction. The general population should not have to suffer along with those facing addiction and should not have to be the collateral damage to testing new policies that worked in other places (such as Portugal) that have a completely different cultural, healthcare, and political system than we have here. The unintended consequences of this plan that “seemed like a good idea” at first blush have been catastrophic both to the general citizenship AND to homeless people, whether or not they are dealing with addiction. We are all worse off for having tried this plan. I wish I could take back my vote when I voted for it. This plan was an abject failure and it’s time to go back to the drawing board. I support a plan that involves jail time or mandatory treatment. Treatment cannot be optional. Drug dealers must face serious consequences.

Thank you.