

Submitter: Katie Baltzor  
On Behalf Of: citizen of Oregon  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure: HB4002

I would prefer Measure 110 to be overturned, however, this proposed bill is a start to rectify the chaos we have created in our state. One only has to look at the statistics of overdoses, deaths, crimes, homelessness, etc. to see the negative impact Measure 110 has placed on our state. So many of the overdoses aren't even reported because Naloxone nasal spray (brand name, Narcan) is available without a prescription at Walgreens, Amazon and many other places. By requiring our law enforcement to write citations and release individuals for drug crimes has made it more difficult for those needing help to receive it. This is such a frustration to our law enforcement to repeatedly deal with these same individuals for the same purposes and see no positive outcome. I believe we had more success in our state with incarceration and drug courts.

While many say Addiction is Not a Crime, maybe they need to go through the crime reports and see how many crimes are committed by addicts. A slap on the hand has never been effective in deterring crime, yet that is what Measure 110 has done. It has taken away the ability of law enforcement to keep a community safe by not incarcerating these individuals. What impact does a citation to appear later in court have on drug addicts? None! They simply don't show up for court. Yes, warrants can be written and then you can send law enforcement out again to arrest, but for what? Only to be released again with another court date? We have to break this cycle and go back to penalizing for drugs. Incarcerating drug users provides the best opportunity for them to regain some cognitive abilities and possibly want to go to treatment versus stay in jail.

I also believe we do need more treatment centers for those seeking help and they should be easier to get into. I also believe there are individuals who are chronically unable to care for themselves and they need a place to live other than a homeless camp, where drugs are rampant. These individuals are not only a danger to themselves, but to the community and especially the first responders who must go into these camps for the criminal activity, overdoses and fires. Legalizing drugs, handing out free drug paraphernalia, and allowing homeless camps only encourages and condones the dysfunctional behavior drugs create.

Oregon's drug laws have made our state a topic for national news where we are all made to look idiotic for thinking drug addicts will just volunteer to quit their addiction and seek treatment on their own. By becoming national news, we also seem to be acquiring more addicts because they can bring their habit here and legally not be jailed, so they continue with their broken lifestyle. I believe being tougher on drug

crimes is the only way to actually help drug users. Drug users are still people that deserve our help, but we need to do it without condoning their life choices.

Please vote to support HB 4002 as a start to bring back the Oregon we all used to be proud to live in.