

Submitter: Chelsea Nikirk

On Behalf Of: Oppose HB 4002 -24

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am a constituent and advocate for community safety for all Oregonians. I am disappointed and saddened to see our state pursue harmful criminalization policies instead of taking meaningful action to increase access to addiction treatment services and housing for Oregonians.

I strongly urge lawmakers to follow the evidence and the data: Decades of failed drug war policies tell us that sending people to jail for having an addiction will not solve our problems.

M110 and decriminalized drug possession did not fail. But Oregon never fully committed to implementing it, leading to a lack of needed support for those struggling with addiction. That's why I strongly oppose HB 4002 and the -24 amendment. A YES vote for HB 4002 and the -24 amendment is a no vote from me for your next reelection. It's simple.

Real solutions exist. In the meantime, we cannot punish the people who are victims of our service gaps. I urge you to oppose HB 4002 -24 and to support continued investment in essential services.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Nikirk