

Submitter: Kelly Cheek

On Behalf Of: ACLU of Oregon

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Dear Oregon Lawmakers,

I strongly oppose HB 4002-24. Oregon needs proven, real solutions to drug addiction and homelessness instead of the false promises of criminalization and jails. These solutions include more treatment, housing, prevention programs, community revitalization, and non-police mobile crisis response teams. A return to criminalizing addiction is dangerous. We know from the failed war on drugs that Black, brown, Indigenous, low-income, LGBTQ+, and rural Oregonian communities will be disproportionately impacted and are most at-risk of overpolicing and incarceration.

The ACLU of Oregon opposes HB 4002-24, as well as any and all amendments to HB 4002 that criminalize in any way user-level possession of banned substances, force treatment on people, or now or in the future lower or divert funding from treatment, housing, and related services.

Sincerely,
Kelly Cheek