

Submitter: Melissa Palmer

On Behalf Of: Self

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

Measure 110 has had a significantly negative impact on Oregon. With the measure roll out without infrastructure in place was professionally and ethically wrong. An arrest might save someone's life, without re-criminalizing this won't even be an option, in fact-there will not be much intervention without re-criminalizing substances. DOJ and OHA need to merge on this for effective change. I am a person who is grateful for the intervention of authorities, it was only through hitting a 'forced' bottom that my life was spared. Sure it was hard, but I do not know of any person who is addicted ever say I want to quit without some negative consequences driving behind that thought, for some it's their freedom, others their jobs, right to drive, their kids- today I have 24 years in recovery and with expungement of my previous records work a decent job, was given opportunity through employers to earn my college degree, and even become a certified alcohol and drug counselor. I am fully supportive to see measure 110 revoked or strictly amended. How can anyone offer to help someone who doesn't want the help, and how does one offer harm reduction to one who is so lost in addiction they no longer value life? HOPE. Most people who are addicted to something are that way because of a loss of hope, in order to gain it back there needs to be a sense of purpose. That purpose may need to come as a result from an arrest, after all if a person who has become consumed by addiction loses hope or purpose-then all that is left is death; this is harm to self and potentially others. As mandatory reporters most have a duty to report this, however who are the mandatory reporters on the streets? Change needs to happen, and HB4002-2024 is a start, but it needs to happen sooner rather than later when the sunsets.