

2/26/2024

Hello my name is Brittiny Raine. I am here as a representative of Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment. We as an agency **oppose HB 4002** and all related amendments. I am a person with lived experience. As a young person who used drugs, jail, foster care, and the courts only created more barriers for me.

HB 4002 is not a treatment-first approach. It is a punitive, and cowardly approach. A true treatment-first approach would be to invest the \$500 million OHA just reported is needed to fill the gap in BHRN services.

The group of police that spoke earlier pointed out that **COPS** can't do what navigators/service providers can do and they can't do it without accountability. I disagree, as a BHRN provider we don't stop getting requests for services provided under Measure 110.

**Criminalization is lazy and you are participating in political theater.** HB 4002 has failed to involve and implement the voices of BHRN providers, black and brown folks, and people with lived experience. It is blatantly obvious by your drafts that you are dedicated to collaborating with police officers, courts and counties. You swear you want collaboration; however, we were never invited to the table. This doesn't show your dedication to collaborating and your actions are speaking louder than words. *The safest communities don't have the most police or jails but the most amount of access to resources.* This bill does not address this even in the slightest.

I invite all of you to have conversations with BHRN providers for our input and the work we do. There are over 200 of us. We deserve more than 2 minutes to really show the amazing work our BHRN providers have put their hearts and souls into. Our staff at CORE are available at any time to have those meetings with you. I am sure that other BHRN providers would eagerly show our work

HB 4002 is not going to create a robust treatment or recovery. HB 4002 and the amendments in this bill will undo all the work the over 200+ of us BHRN providers have been working on and building. People are accessing our services. The data is readily available on the [OHA website](#).

**I am asking you to use critical thinking skills to deconstruct the rugged individualism boot strapped bullshit we all have internalized and consider the intentional barriers you are now building into our communities,** if passed HB 4002 will continue to create an "entire swath of its citizens being disposable. These systems, that exist to hold people down while convincing them & everyone else that there's no boot on their throat; it's their own fault they can't breathe."

You show us where your priorities lie in

- Your current draft of HB 4002 is a continuation of the state's failure to address our state's addiction and housing crisis. You failed to implement

Measure 110, delaying access to treatment and ignoring the fixes to the citation system state auditors called on you to do. You have failed to ensure money has been given to behavioral health providers to expand treatment.

- This was drafted by prosecutors and others who have no expertise in the recovery field and ignores the evidence from two years of research by academics from across the country that showed: the arrival of fentanyl to Oregon, not decriminalization, caused the increases in overdoses; ending eviction protections, not decriminalization, increased homelessness; decriminalization has had no impact on public safety based on sound science that compares Oregon to other states and last year there was a 30% decrease in crime in Portland.
- People with and communities with lived experience of disparities in the criminal justice system, the behavioral health system, and access to safe housing were shut out of the “negotiations” that involved only white people with power and money.

Based on the prior public hearings, there is an overwhelming amount of us giving you research around not only measure 110 but how the war on drugs disproportionately affects black and brown people. One rep had the audacity to insinuate that this new legislation from HB 4002 could help black folks and another. The racism and tone deafness of our “representatives” in that room was so appalling that it feels like a blatant disregard for research, and evidence based approaches. People with lived experience, BHRN providers, advocates, and black and brown folks are screaming at you to listen and yet you continue to ignore our voices. This legislation is showing that you listen to the voices that fit your own narrative. WE ARE also your constituents, our voice matters, not just the ones that fit within your own moral compass. I invite you to do the hard thing which is to not adopt/pass this half ass band aid approach which is called HB 4002. We need you to do better.

Brittany Raine  
ED of Community Engagement  
Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment  
[www.coreeugene.org](http://www.coreeugene.org)

