

Submitter: Benjamin Klevit

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

As a native Portlander who works downtown, it has been my observation that the visible decline of downtown began first began coincident to the legalization of recreational marijuana, and then was drastically exasperated coincident to the implementation of Measure 110.

Whenever any noticeable improvement or decline suddenly occurs in life, one simply has to isolate what changed just before that. It is easy to see that the change that occurred was the decriminalization of hard drugs. And in order to revert a worsened societal scene such as what we are now witnessing, one would start by simply undoing the changes that occurred just prior to the social decline.

As well, people need to know there are consequences for their actions. Drugs may provide temporary relief but they are not a route to survival and happiness. Laws are like rails in a bowling lane that keep the ball from going in the gutter, but in this case they keep one's life from going into the gutter.

We've got to send a strong message to our youth and frankly all Americans and peoples of the world that drugs are not cool and that Oregon is not a refuge for drug addicts and dealers. And if a young adult understands the legal ramifications to getting caught doing drugs then maybe along with proper and sincere drug prevention education he or she will think twice about using them at all.

Downtowns across Oregon cities should be family friendly. They should feel safe for visitors. They should be clean and attractive so people want to be there supporting restaurants, stores, museums, art and theater. They are vital for the community and all steps should be taken to preserve them.

I urge you to DO THE RIGHT THING and recriminalize these life sucking drugs now.

Thank you.