

Submitter: Sara Hunt

On Behalf Of: Addiction is not a crime

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

I am a student at Portland State University, and I am writing because I am against HB 4002. I grew up without my mother because she was arrested for her drug addiction in 2003. Instead of receiving the help and treatment she needed, she was traumatized by her incarceration, and left with a record that made reentry and sobriety extremely difficult. She relapsed, and was rearrested in 2006. After being released, she passed from her addiction in 2013. It is clear that incarceration is not the correct response to addiction. Not only is it a misuse of taxes and funds, it is doing more harm than good. It is destroying families. We should be using the funds and resources to truly rehabilitate individuals who suffer from addiction through therapy and mentorship. They need support, guidance, and to be given a chance. These aspects are all not provided by criminalizing them. Incarceration is the easy way out. We need to reach the root of the problem. Please stop taking away children's mothers.