

Submitter: Greg Harris

On Behalf Of: Don't criminalize addiction

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4002

"I am a constituent who is extremely disappointed it has taken this long for state leaders to pursue the return of criminalization policies. It is high time we take action to increase access to treatment services, but also motivate those who struggle with some consequences, and encourage treatment is chosen in lieu of jail.

Just like the hundreds of Oregonians who submitted testimony earlier this month supporting criminalization proposals, including HB 4002 and HB 4036, I strongly urge lawmakers to follow the evidence and the data:

Decriminalization hasn't worked.

At the end of the day, addiction is a health issue. Not a crime. But crime is often the result of addiction. The addiction crisis demands action, and HB 4002 -24 is a good start. I urge you to press the lawmakers behind HB 4002 to consider more work that will also help to incentivise people struggling with addiction to seek help. I urge the same lawmakers to seek federal funding for more mental health services for Oregon, and the rest of the United States."