

Please record the following vote explanation for Senator Robinson for HB 4002:

According to yesterday's Oregonian, the first major step in our Governor's Portland emergency declaration over the drug crisis, was to suspend the bottle and can redemption in some areas of Portland.

Why the bottle and can redemption? Is this another example of how badly the government can handle a crisis? Actually, that's exactly what it is.

Fentanyl is so cheap in Portland, that drug users are turning in cans to collect a few dollars and then purchasing the drugs right there on the street. The city is trying to cut off their money supply, so they will go elsewhere.

Does this sound crazy to anyone besides me?

We can count on government programs to be poorly run.

We need to first stop the flow of drugs and secondly do what we can to treat those who are addicted.

We did not need a 75 page bill. We needed a simple bill.

First, we need extremely severe penalties for drug dealers. Surely the police can locate the dealers and prosecute them. The drug users have easy access to them.

Second, we need to criminalize drugs. This should have been a class A misdemeanor or higher with possible jail time on the first offense. Harsh penalties are needed to discourage their use.

Let's be blunt. The patchwork unspecified misdemeanor used in this bill allows some politicians to say they avoided a class A misdemeanor and others to claim they got something just as good.

Section 35 does not even allow for jail time until after probation has been violated. Fines and court costs are prohibited. This is too weak. We need stronger penalties.

The system implemented here is complex and will certainly be poorly implemented in many areas around the state.

The in's and out's of the record expungement, deflection, treatment programs, and studies sound great in theory, but the drug users aren't going to understand them.

They would understand simple penalties. Jail for a year if they take drugs, or being charged with a felony for attempted murder if they deal drugs, would be far more effective.

We need to keep it simple.

This bill takes some steps in the right direction, but not enough. It will not fix Oregon's drug problem and it will delay the implementation of stronger measures.

We need to repeal measure 110 and strengthen penalties against drug dealers.

I hope I am proven wrong, but I am very much afraid that HB4002 will only make minor improvements and will prevent stronger measures from being implemented.

Remember, the failed experiment with measure 110 promised two things. They claimed that decriminalizing drugs would not increase their use, and that instead we would get users into treatment. Both failed.

The premise of HB4002 is that we can build a system that we will finally get drug users into treatment. Whether that can be done effectively and at an affordable cost with this legislation is doubtful.

We need to address more severe penalties for drug dealers and we also need stiffer penalties for drug users, that can also include treatment. Drug courts have worked but they only work if there is a penalty to avoid.

I was against measure 110, I am against drug use, I am against drug dealers, I have advocated for a full repeal of measure 110.

Failing to take action against those who are responsible for the flow of deadly addictive drugs into Oregon is an especially enormous omission from this legislation.

The legislation does not go far enough.

This is why I voted NO on HB 4002.