

LUCETTA ELMER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 24



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 2024

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4002 A

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Yesterday I voted yes on House Bill 4002 A. When this session began, I was clear that something must change with Oregon's status quo relating to Measure 110 and our statewide addiction crisis. While this legislation is not the comprehensive solution I was hoping for, I do believe it is a step in the right direction.

House Bill 4002 A gives our law enforcement the ability to hold drug users accountable and move them towards treatment. It also begins to address public drug use which has remained rampant on our streets. Oregon has a long road ahead to recovery from the devastating impact of Measure 110. It is my hope that this begins to move Oregon in a better direction. House Bill 4002 A includes the following changes:

- Will allow jail sentences (via a new "Drug Enforcement Misdemeanor") of up to 180 days for people caught with small amounts of drugs, but only under certain conditions such as violating probation/conditional discharge.
- Provides counties the option to participate in a deflection program where people can avoid arrest by working with behavioral health programs that connect drug users with "community-based pathways to treatment, recovery support services, housing, case management or other services."
- Alters state law to create heightened penalties for drug dealers dealing near parks, treatment centers and homeless shelters.
- Expands the use of welfare holds to 72-hours for those that are a danger to themselves and others.
- Directs the Chief Justice to look at changes to Oregon's Catch and Release System (Senate Bill 48).

It is critical to me to consult the experts within House District 24 on this issue, and their input on this legislation was ultimately what informed my decision. House Bill 4002 A was supported by the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, Yamhill County District Attorney Brad Berry, Yamhill County Sheriff Sam Elliott, and McMinnville Police Chief Matt Scales.

Sincerely,

Lucetta Elmer
State Representative
House District 24