



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 29, 2023

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

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4002 - A ^(sc)

I am proud to represent my constituents in House District 48, which includes Damascus and parts of East Portland, Happy Valley, and Boring. My district is diverse in that I hear from urban, suburban and rural constituents. When I make a decision, it is my duty to take into account multiple perspectives. During our last Town Hall, we had over 70 community members participate to tell us their thoughts regarding the drug crisis in our district. For the last several months, I've been fortunate to hear from many of my constituents, advocates, and survivors from all sides of this issue. One woman's story resonated with me. She shared her lived experience as a former drug-user and uses her time to help those battling addiction. She stressed the importance of peer-support and providing the life skills as they transition from being on the streets into housing. We must help those recovering acquire the necessary skills for success. That to me underscores what this is all about.

In my district, particularly in East Multnomah County, people are losing their lives to overdose and suffering from addiction on our streets. It is my priority to move people into treatment and ensure that our families, especially our children, are safe. I will support a solution that has widespread support from anyone who has a role in getting harmful drugs out of our communities and connects people to treatment they need. Some aspects of this bill that I support include:

- The creation of a Joint Task Force for Accountability, which will help to develop a plan that includes evidence-based and evidence-informed strategies for increasing the number of opioid use disorder treatment providers statewide and expanding the capacity of the opioid use disorder treatment system in our state.





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My hope is that as we improve as a state on how we handle the drug and addiction crisis, we address some concerns that this bill also brings for East Multnomah County and more importantly for the entirety of Oregon:

1. Racial Impact: **Comprehending and alleviating the disproportionate effects on marginalized communities, especially concerning law enforcement procedures and the availability of justice.**
2. Legal System Challenges: Assessing the potential strain on resources within the legal system, including prosecutors, public defenders, courts, and probation services. **There is already a backlog of expungement cases in Oregon, and though we've expanded the services that paralegal and legal assistants can provide, we are still having a workforce shortage.**
3. Treatment/Deflection/Behavioral Health: The disparity lies in allowing deflection services to be optional for counties and law enforcement. **Additionally, it is crucial to assess the effectiveness and execution of deflection programs while guaranteeing access to essential treatment and support services for individuals engaged with the criminal justice system.**

In addition, I do believe that aspects of Measure 110 are working. We have an exceptional organization for detox with Recovery Works NW in District 48. As I have been approached by many members of my district, I hope that as we look for the long-term solution, we take into account the importance of peer mentorship in the recovery of those battling addiction.

This was a difficult decision, but I will be a 'yes' to HB 4002 because we must urgently address the escalating deadly drug crisis on our streets, recognizing that every voice is crucial in finding a solution. I am dedicated to actively engaging with my district regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Representative Hoa Nguyen
State Representative - Oregon House District 48

