

ANNESSA HARTMAN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 40



Oregon House of Representatives

February 28, 2024

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

RE: Vote Explanation on HB 4036

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I believe it is my duty to address the urgent concerns affecting my community, particularly those that endanger the health and safety of my constituents. My vote to pull HB 4036 out of committee was driven by a critical component of the legislation that I have ardently supported and contributed to: my Pill Press Bill.

The illicit use of pill press machines has emerged as a significant threat within Oregon, contributing to a surge in overdose rates across the state. These machines, capable of producing up to 3,000 counterfeit pills per hour, are being used to manufacture fake versions of common medications, such as Adderall and Xanax, dangerously laced with fentanyl. This practice targets our most vulnerable, including students and older adults, and poses a grave risk to public health.

Unfortunately, Oregon has the lowest penalties for using pill presses to make counterfeit pills. By elevating the offense of using pill presses for illicit drug production from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class C Felony, we significantly increase the penalties from only one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine to up to five years in prison and a \$125,000 fine. This legislative change is essential for enhancing the prosecutorial tools available to combat the manufacture of dangerous substances, thereby protecting our communities from their devastating impacts.

Beyond the Pill Press Bill, HB 4036 introduces several other provisions that I support aimed at addressing drug addiction and providing a path toward recovery for those affected. These include:

- **Mandatory Drug Treatment**, ensuring individuals charged with or convicted of certain misdemeanors undergo drug dependency evaluations and, if necessary, treatment at no cost to them.
- **Conditional Discharge Diversion**, offering individuals charged with designated misdemeanors the opportunity for diversion and probation, underlining the importance of rehabilitation over punishment.
- **Expungement**, allowing for the setting aside of convictions for possession or use of controlled substances under specified conditions, facilitating a fresh start for those committed to recovery.
- **Opioid Overdose Rapid Response Grant Program**, establishing a framework to support cities and counties in creating rapid response teams to address opioid overdoses, demonstrating our commitment to saving lives and preventing future tragedies.
- **Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission**, directing grants and funding to support evidence-informed and evidence-based services for drug treatment and harm reduction, ensuring a comprehensive approach to substance abuse issues.

While I acknowledge that HB 4036 contains provisions that I do not support, I voted yes because of the compelling need for the Pill Press Bill provisions and the additional measures aimed at addressing drug dependency and enhancing public safety. I hope that, through this legislation and the comprehensive approach taken in HB 4002, we can make significant strides in combating the illicit drug manufacturing crisis and provide meaningful support to those affected by addiction in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Annessa Hartman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Representative Annessa Hartman

State Representative – Oregon House District 40