



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 28, 2023

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 voted yes to withdraw HB 4036 from committee because we must act urgently to address the deadly drug crisis unfolding on our streets, and every voice is critical to finding a solution.

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. Some aspects of this bill that I support include:

- This legislation would crack down on drug dealers and those individuals bringing harmful drugs into our community and taking advantage of those struggling with addiction.
- This legislation also seeks to connect people who may be struggling with addiction to treatment. One way in which it would do this is through Conditional Discharge Diversion - Section 43 - that allows individuals charged with designated misdemeanors the opportunity for diversion instead of incarceration. Another way is through Expungement - Section 44 - that allows for expungement upon completion of probation conditions.
- Lastly, this legislation would work with local jurisdictions to provide more resources for people struggling with addiction. Specifically, it creates The Opioid Overdose Rapid Response Grant Program - Section 45 - to assist cities and counties in developing and supporting opioid overdose rapid response teams.





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However, HB 4036 falls short of providing a long-term, comprehensive solution and lacks an approach that creates local-level buy-in from law enforcement, county leadership, and behavioral health workers. I will only 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.

Looking forward, we must strive for solutions that prioritize equity, evidence, fairness, and effectiveness together. We must address root causes of addiction.

Sincerely,

Representative Hoa Nguyen
State Representative - Oregon House District 48

