

ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 6, 2024

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

RE: Vote Explanation on SB 1553-B

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

My vote against SB 1553 was influenced by my prior support for HB 4002, which addressed the recriminalization of possession of small amounts of drugs generally. I believe it is crucial to assess the impacts of HB 4002 on public transit use and overall community safety before escalating penalties, especially for public use on transit. Our approach to drug possession and use, particularly in public spaces, must be informed by evidence and outcomes, which is why we need to allow time for HB 4002 to be implemented and its effects to be thoroughly evaluated.

I remain dedicated to supporting initiatives that promote safety, accessibility, and equity in our public services, including transit. I am committed to revisiting this issue as we gather more data on the impacts of HB 4002 and remain open to future legislation to support transit safety.

Sincerely,

Representative Annessa Hartman

State Representative – Oregon House District 40

