



from the
OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

For Immediate Release

Date: February 15, 2024

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House Republicans Reaffirm Commitment to Meaningful Criminal Justice Accountability in Any Potential M110 Fix

SALEM, Ore. – The House Republican Caucus today issued a letter to legislative presiding officers to reaffirm the caucus’ steadfast support for meaningful criminal justice accountability provisions in any legislation meant to address the drug crisis caused by Measure 110’s failure.

“[W]e are committed to supporting a bill that reclassifies the possession of deadly drugs – such as fentanyl, heroin, and meth – with accountability at least equivalent to a Class A Misdemeanor. We also fully support optional pre-trial booking diversion,” **Republicans wrote in their letter.**

For months, House Republicans have signaled support for meaningful changes to the law that will get drugs off the street by reimposing significant criminal justice accountability with mandatory treatment to avoid jail and criminal records. The penalties of a Class A Misdemeanor allow for those who break the law to spend up to a year in diversion programs to help them beat their addictions.

“Other proposals fall well short of providing the treatment pathways necessary for serious addicts to address their addictions,” **Republicans continued.** “The legislature must act in a meaningful way to solve the drug, crime, and homeless crises facing our state. Anything short of the equivalent of a Class A Misdemeanor lacks the accountability needed to get Oregon back on the right path.”

House Republicans have introduced HB 4036, a comprehensive bill that reimposes Class A Misdemeanor penalties for drug possession, stiffens penalties for drug dealers and manufacturers, increases penalties for those who deal drugs that result in the death of another person, and mandates treatment through court diversion programs in order for offenders to avoid jail.

Read the letter here.

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