

Submitter: Jeremy Jones
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1553

I've been a transit operator for 11 years. In the past three to five years I have never seen so much prolific and open drug use in my life. Individuals are openly using drugs on the public bus stations and in the buses without regard of the dangers and risks to other citizens. Daily encounters include individuals who have left needles on platforms and buses where innocent people, including small children can get ahold of. These same individuals are often filthy, covered in their own urine or feces. They are unable to follow basic instructions and rules and often become angry and violent. This is NOT what public transportation is about or wants to be. We want law abiding, rule following riders. We want to provide safe, reliable transportation for those that have no other options. We want to transport families who want to go to a park or family friendly event. Public transportation should be a safe environment. Free from drug and alcohol use. It should be a clean, safe and reliable system. As long as there are no laws that prohibit and protect both the employee and the public from exposure to drug use and all the additional health and safety concerns that come along with drug use, Oregon's transit system's will never recover to pre pandemic service levels and the public will continue to look at public transportation in a negative way. Public transportation is amazing when safe for all citizens to use. Please pass this legislation and help make public transportation accessible, available, desirable and safe for all.

Thank you