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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Judiciary

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2175

This bill continues to further the failed war on drugs.

There are many legitimate uses for press pill equipment, which has existed since its invention by Henry Wellcome in 1884 and was popularized by its ability to deliver the new wonder-drug aspirin. Many supplements are sold in bulk such as green tea, Chinese herbs, bodybuilding supplements, sleep aids, naturopathic remedies, and those used in homeopathic remedies

Obviously, this is a response to the perceived fentanyl prevalence, but in terms of overall illicit drug use, Oregon is not seeing a problem in other substances that involve press pills such as MDMA (Exstasy) or anabolic steroids. Creating a new criminal paraphernalia law simply locks more people up for a victimless crime, limits access to equipment for which there are legitimate uses not related to illicit substances, and risks arresting people possessing such equipment intended for legitimate use.

I, for example, am a craft bookbinder, and I use a "drug scale" to weigh methylcellulose and istinglass used in book restoration. When I bought it, because such scales are considered "paraphernalia" I was worried Amazon might report me to the state. Luckily that didn't happen - but it also illustrates that in an age of online delivery, this bill will only hurt those with legitimate use. The black market will continue to flourish.

Measure 110 delivered a mandate from the voters to the legislature: no more criminal drug laws.