

REPRESENTATIVE ANNESSA HARTMAN (SHE/HER)
HOUSE DISTRICT 40



OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

My name is Annessa Hartman, and I have the honor of representing House District 40, which includes Gladstone, Oregon City, and parts of North Clackamas County. I'm writing today in strong support of HB 3553, which targets a growing problem in our state: the use of pill press machines to manufacture counterfeit pills laced with fentanyl.

Some of you may remember that I introduced this legislation last year, and while we weren't able to move it forward, I haven't stopped working on it and am grateful for the Public Hearing.

Pill presses can make up to 3,000 counterfeit pills an hour. They're being used to churn out fake Adderall, Xanax, and other medications, often laced with fentanyl. They're ending up in the hands of our kids, friends, and neighbors, who think they're taking one thing and never wake up.

Right now, under Oregon law, possession of a pill press that may be used to create illicit drugs is only a Class A misdemeanor. That's the same as writing a bad check. That does not reflect the scale of the threat these machines pose. HB 3553 would change that.

This bill creates a new Class C felony offense for possessing, manufacturing, buying, or selling a pill press when the person knows, intends, or has reasonable cause to believe the machine will be used to make illicit drugs.

This change isn't about punishing people struggling with addiction. It's about giving prosecutors and law enforcement a meaningful tool to stop counterfeit drug operations before the damage is done, and holding those who profit off addiction and death accountable.

I went on a ride-along with Oregon City PD not long ago. We talked about fentanyl and the ways it's showing up in our community. One officer told me flat out: if we find a pill press in someone's car and it's not actively being used, there's not much we can do under current law. That's a problem. This bill gives them another option.

We're not reinventing the wheel here—states like Washington and Florida have already passed laws like this. It's time we caught up. I want to thank the law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and community advocates who have been sounding the alarm on this issue. I also want to thank the Committee for hearing this bill and respectfully urge your support for HB 3553.

Representative Annessa Hartman
House District 40 – Gladstone, Oregon City, North Clackamas County

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