

March 17, 2012

OPERA Supports House Bill 2936

Oregon Prevention and Recovery Association (OPERA) is in support of HB 2936.

Sobering Centers provide valuable services to a population at risk of harming themselves or others. Defining “sobering centers”, as HB 2936 aims to do, will enhance those services afforded to individuals acutely affected by drugs or alcohol in Oregon. In addition, broadening the definition of “sobering centers” will enable communities to partner with other entities to provide this critical service under statute.

Currently, many communities are inappropriately using costly jail beds or expensive medical facilities for those in an inebriated state while local businesses and communities struggle with this difficult to manage population. Sobering facilities will provide an alternative for law enforcement as well as the community.

While this service isn’t considered “treatment”, the goal of all sobering facilities is to guide those in crisis situations in a direction that will best serve them as well as the community. Partnerships with treatment organizations as well as other service agencies are paramount in the success of this process. HB 2936 is key to ensure this level of coordination occurs in communities around the state.