



March 19, 2015

Rep. Duane Stark
State Representative – District 4
900 Court St. NE, H-372
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for Sobering Center in Grants Pass (HB 2936)

Dear Sir,

Grants Pass and Josephine County has been struggling with intoxicated and impaired persons who are unable to care for themselves, cannot get into treatment, and leave our City and County without options. A few years ago, our Police Chief Bill Landis became part of a group that sought to open a "Sobering Center" where drug and alcohol providers as well as mental health professionals could benefit by having persons get sober and have the opportunity to transition into existing treatment opportunities here in Grants Pass.

The City has felt this to be such an urgent need that it has become our Council's top goal during the last two years. We know that the group has formed a 501c3 and is now partnered with stakeholders financially including the Ausland Group, All Care, Primary Health, Evergreen Bank, Options (Mental Health), private donors, City of Grants Pass, LADPC, and others to make this a reality. Josephine County continues to struggle with funding related to criminal justice and I feel that these people are in need of treatment and not jail space, even if it was available.

I am asking for your support to help us pass HB 2936 and any other bills that will help us get people into treatment where jail beds are not available and treatment providers struggle because their hands are tied without sobering opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Darin Fowler
City of Grants Pass

CF#: 15-026