



CENTRAL CITY CONCERN

HOMES HEALTH JOBS

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Barker
Chair, House Committee On Judiciary
900 Court St. NE, H-480
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Andy Olson
Vice-Chair, House Committee On Judiciary
900 Court St. NE, H-478
Salem, Oregon 97301

The Honorable Jennifer Williamson
Vice-Chair, House Committee On Judiciary
900 Court St. NE, H-283
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2936

Dear Representatives Barker, Olson, and Williamson:

This letter is in support of HB 2936 defining a “Sobering Facility” and detailing a process for admission into such a facility. Free standing facilities dedicated to providing a safe harbor for persons suffering from acute intoxication are becoming a common, low-cost alternative to treatment center, hospital, or jail placement. Under the proposed bill, the Sobering Facility alternative allows the person to pass through the episode of acute intoxication in a clean and safe environment and to receive referral to a provider specializing in addiction treatment. Additionally, the bill clearly outlines under what circumstances a person can be brought to a Sobering Facility and how long the person may be kept in the facility.

I urge you to ensure that Sobering Facilities have the same or similar sensible immunity from liability for actions taken pursuant to ORS 430.399 for the public service they provide. Without this immunity from liability for good faith actions under ORS 430.399, the cost and exposure to liability the facility may face might be too great for many facility operators to bear. If the immunity provisions for a Sobering Facility requires more consideration, I urge you to investigate this issue further and keep ORS 430.399 intact until satisfactory provisions can be agreed upon to ensure the viability of this newly created entity.



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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Blackburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ed Blackburn
Executive Director, Central City Concern

cc: The Honorable Brent Barton, Member, House Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Member, House Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Wayne Krieger, Member, House Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Ann Lininger, Member, House Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Bill Post, Member, House Committee On Judiciary
The Honorable Sherrie Sprenger, Member, House Committee On Judiciary