



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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March 6, 2017

Representative Mitch Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE, Hearing Room E
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2386 and HB 2645, Establishing a Drug Take-Back Program

Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports HB 2386 and HB 2645, which would develop and implement a drug take-back program. Unused and expired medication poses a hazard to public safety and environmental health. If not disposed of properly, such medication is subject to abuse or accidental ingestion. Moreover, medication flushed into wastewater systems can be extremely difficult to remove, thereby entering aquatic ecosystems. The Portland Police Bureau, Office of Neighborhood Involvement crime prevention program, and partners have hosted periodic community drug take-back events, but such efforts can only address a portion of the unwanted and expired drugs in the state.

The drug take-back program proposed in these bills will help tackle the public safety and environmental health problems of unused drugs by providing a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs throughout Oregon. The City of Portland urges your support for HB 2386 and HB 2645. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Daniel Eisenbeis
Interim State Government Relations Manager