



Testimony by Wilsonville Mayor Tim Knapp in Support of HB 2386 and HB 2645:

Create a Uniform Statewide Drug Take-Back Program Funded by the Makers of Pharmaceuticals Rather than by Taxpayers

Scheduled for public hearing on March 6, 2017, before the House Committee on Health Care

Chair Greenlick, Vice-Chairs Hayden and Nosse, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Wilsonville City Council, I am testifying in support of HB 2386 and HB 2645 that institute a uniform, statewide drug take-back program funded by the manufacturers of pharmaceuticals rather than by taxpayers, as is currently the situation.

Both bills would implement a statewide program funded by drug makers that would enhance the proper disposal of prescription drugs. The lack of a standard drug take-back program contributes to inappropriate disposal through municipal wastewater processing systems and facilitates unused medications potentially being misused by youth or others.

This legislation would likely result in additional drug-collection kiosks being located in pharmacies, hospitals and long-term care facilities, making it easier for Oregonians to responsibly dispose of unwanted or unused medications. The bills would also reduce pressure on local government budgets, as many municipalities like the City of Wilsonville currently pay for drug-collection programs. The City of Wilsonville supports this legislation because of the impact unused prescription drugs can have on public health and safety, along with water quality concerns that result from improper medication disposal practices, such as flushing.

The bills are in keeping with a philosophy that the beneficiaries of government activities pay user fees to subsidize the costs of these programs. In this case, the companies that profit from the use and sale of drugs help to fund the costs for proper disposal of their unused products.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration adopted changes to federal rules in 2014, allowing for more flexible transport of unused medications to an incinerator for ultimate disposal, including the use of common carrier shipping. Prior to these rule changes, such transport was typically provided by law enforcement personnel, which was cost-prohibitive.

The City of Wilsonville respectfully urges a DO PASS vote on HB 2386 and HB 2645. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Knapp, Mayor
City of Wilsonville