



## ALEX CUYLER

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Intergovernmental Relations Manager  
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DATE: April 11, 2017  
TO: House Committee on Judiciary  
RE: HB 2176, relating to sobering facilities

Dear Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Lane County supports HB 2176 and urges your DO PASS recommendation on this measure.

Sobering facilities provide a very important tool for police agencies. Lane County has worked on sobering facility issues during both the 2013 and 2015 sessions to both find adequate funding for the facility that serves our region and to ensure police agencies could be adequately protected from liability when assisting in getting an inebriated person to the facility.

We appreciate the advocacy of Representative Duane Stark as he took up this issue in 2015 and then found a number of co-sponsors to take on finding a funding mechanism for these facilities in 2017. HB 2176 provides an expansion of the use of the Mental Health Alcoholism and Drug Services Account to provide funding for registered sobering facilities, with certain sidebars.

Notably, this account will be bolstered by the state's recreational marijuana taxation framework, and Lane County finds it appropriate that some of these funds will be available to sobering facilities.

With appropriate resources, sobering facilities have proven themselves to be an effective tool in increasing the number of individuals who enter, and maintain participation in addiction treatments. HB 2176 will become a new, and welcome, source of these resources.

**SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY**