



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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April 11, 2017

Rep. Jeff Barker
900 Court Street NE H-480
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: House Bill 2175

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am here today to voice my support for House Bill 2175, which allows for additional sobering centers to be registered in the State of Oregon. While I speak for the Salem community, I know other local communities would echo my support.

Sobering stations have long been a need in the Salem area. Our location as a destination for many homeless, addicted or emotionally disturbed individuals, is something which I have long been aware of. Unfortunately, our public safety and social service providers are overwhelmed at times by the sheer number of people in need of assistance. Our ability to meet that need is woefully inadequate, many times by the simple fact that a sobering station does not exist.

On the other hand, we are blessed to have a community where so many agencies, both public and private, routinely work together to find a solution to problems such as these. Regrettably, the answer for those in need of a sobering station has been an unmet need for as long as I can recall. But as we speak here today, we have community, medical, professional and public safety personnel who all recognize the need to come together to seek solutions to this problem and are willing to do what they can to make that a reality.

I believe this bill will help move this issue forward and provide the impetus many communities need to find a place for individuals to be safe and treated appropriately when in need of the assistance a sobering station can provide.

Thank you for your time and I very much appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Respectfully,



Jerry Moore
Chief of Police, Salem