



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

Ted Wheeler, Mayor
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner
Nick Fish, Commissioner
Dan Saltzman, Commissioner
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 2, 2018

Representative Greenlick, Chair
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street, NE, HR E
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 4143


Dear Chair Greenlick and Members of the Committee,

We write in support of HB 4143 to create a peer recovery mentor pilot program, require prescribers to register with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and direct a report on insurance barriers to accessing appropriate treatment. Opioid addiction and overdose are increasingly claiming lives, destroying families, and posing challenges to address co-occurring issues in Oregon communities.

The service offered by the pilot program will connect people who have been treated for an opioid-related overdose with peer recovery mentors. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, research shows that peer support facilitates recovery and reduces health care costs. Investing in evidence-based treatment services, like the pilot program, will save lives and reduce the likelihood of people returning to opioid use after an overdose.

More broadly, we know that issues of addiction and mental health have cross-cutting impacts on housing and homelessness, public safety, and success in the workforce. The state legislature is a key partner to local jurisdictions in addressing the opioid crisis and the impact this crisis has in communities across Oregon.

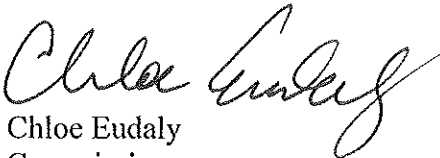
The City of Portland is committed to being part of a statewide effort to address the opioid epidemic in Oregon and urges your support for HB 4143.


Ted Wheeler
Mayor


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