



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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February 5, 2019

Chair Mitch Greenlick
Vice-Chair Cedric Hayden
Vice-Chair Rob Nosse
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

SUBJECT: Testimony of the City of Salem in Support of House Bill 2339

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding House Bill 2339.

The City of Salem is supportive of House Bill 2339, which would provide for matching grants for sobering facilities based on community need.

Homelessness is a complex problem that requires long-term, committed partnerships with public and non-profit agencies and organizations. In Salem, we collaborate with many non-profit, private, and government organizations within Marion and Polk Counties to seek proactive solutions. Last year, the Oregon Legislature and Governor provided start-up funding for a sobering center in Salem to relieve some of the burden on our regional hospital and jail, and to connect individuals with treatment resources. This safe, clean, and supervised space to become sober will help us to connect people to further treatment.

This bill gives local governments a tool to help those most in need in our communities. Ownership of this problem is complex and funding for these locally sponsored initiatives is challenging.

The City of Salem urges a "yes" vote on House Bill 2339. Your continued support is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición