



Subject: House Bill 2257 Recognizing substance use disorder as a chronic illness.

To: Chair Representative Greenlick, Vice-Chair Representative Hayden, Vice-Chair Representative Nosse and members of the House Health Care Committee

From: Central City Concern

Date: 2/5/2019

Central City Concern is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, affordable housing and stabilizing services to people impacted by homelessness, poverty and substance use disorder in the Portland Metro Area. In 2019 we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary.

Central City Concern is writing in support of House Bill 2257. Substance use disorder is a life long struggle for many members of our community. Recovery is not a one-time intervention, it is a daily awareness of stress management, health consciousness and community building/re-building.

The Opioid Taskforce recommendations are a great start to adjusting our current recovery and treatment services. The designation of a chronic illness is important to ensuring all components of our service system see and address substance use disorder with the same basic understanding. Other components of this bill including Project Nurture and reports to be done on address continuity of care in our criminal justice system will continue to further good work we know can and should be done to improve the health of Oregonians.

In asking for your support of this legislation we also ask that you remember, this work cannot center on addressing a specific substance above others, it must be a holistic approach to complex health care needs regardless of the substance in question.

Thank you,

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