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CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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**Elizabeth Edwards, Director**  
1221 S.W. Fourth Ave., Room 410  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 823-4130  
Fax: (503) 823-3014

March 21, 2019

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

RE: HB 3273

Dear Chair Salinas and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports HB 3273, which will develop and implement a statewide prescription drug take-back program. Unused and expired medication poses a hazard to public health, public safety and the environment. If not disposed of properly, such medication is subject to abuse or accidental ingestion. Moreover, medication flushed into wastewater systems can be extremely difficult to remove, thereby entering aquatic ecosystems.

Currently, Oregon's system for collecting unwanted prescription medications relies significantly on local law enforcement agencies. The Portland Police Bureau, the Office of Community and Civic Life crime prevention program, and partners have hosted periodic community drug take-back events, but such efforts can only address a portion of the unwanted and expired drugs in the state.

The drug take-back program proposed in this bill, like those established in Washington, California and New York, will help tackle the problem of unused drugs by providing a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs throughout Oregon. The City of Portland urges your support for HB 3273. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Noll, Interim State Lobbyist  
City of Portland