



Letter in SUPPORT of House Bill 3273

To: House Committee on Health Care
From: Michael Selvaggio, for Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs
Date: March 21, 2019

Chair Salinas, members of the committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Police and Sheriffs (ORCOPS) represents line officers and deputies from over forty local law enforcement associations throughout the State of Oregon.

We come today in support of HB 3273, which facilitates a drug “take-back” program for unused pharmaceuticals.

Every day, our members deal with medical emergencies, deaths, grieving families, and crimes that can be traced back to epidemic of opioid addiction and abuse. Whether in big cities, small towns, or rural areas, this public health crisis touches all parts of our state.

A drug take-back process is not, in itself, a solution to this larger scourge. However, a statewide coordinated program will remove a significant amount of pharmaceutical products out of circulation and is an essential piece of a multipronged approach as a preventative measure.

HB 3273 is modeled after language approved with overwhelming support in Washington, New York, and California. Your approval of HB 3273 moves Oregon forward in addressing this crisis.