



CITY OF  
**PORTLAND, OREGON**

Ted Wheeler, Mayor  
Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Nick Fish, Commissioner  
Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner  
Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner

February 5, 2019

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

RE: HB 2257

We write in support of HB 2257 to improve the continuum of care and reduce barriers to accessing quality treatment for substance use disorders (SUD), including the recognition of SUD as a chronic illness. The City is working with partners to aid in the prevention, treatment, and recovery of people experiencing addiction, particularly as we face a public health crisis due to the opioid epidemic.

The opioid epidemic requires comprehensive solutions. Issues related to SUD have cross-cutting impacts on housing and homelessness, public safety, and other City services. To address the crisis, the City works in partnership with other jurisdictions who provide public health support and services for individuals experiencing homelessness, SUD, and mental health issues. The State of Oregon is a key partner to local jurisdictions in addressing the opioid crisis and the subsequent impact to communities across Oregon.

The City of Portland urges your support of HB 2257. Portland and other cities are on the front lines dealing with the impact of these crises and we're committed to working with you to expand programs and increase access to treatment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ted Wheeler  
Mayor

Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner

Nick Fish  
Commissioner

Jo Ann Hardesty  
Commissioner

Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner