



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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March 20, 2019

Senator Monnes Anderson, Chair
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court Street NE, HR A
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 910

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports SB 910, which will increase access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) and, with the proposed -1 amendments, access to naloxone kits.

Issues related to addiction 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, addiction, and mental health issues. The City supports efforts to expand community-based services, particularly those that create a pathway out of the criminal justice system for people experiencing challenges with mental health and addiction.

SB 910 is a technical fix that will allow more jails and residential treatment facilities to provide MAT. The -1 amendments will also increase access to naloxone by allowing for more than one naloxone kit to be distributed at a time to social service agencies and allow individuals to serve as secondary distributors of naloxone. These provisions will increase access to this life-saving tool.

The City of Portland urges your support for SB 910. Portland and other cities are on the front lines dealing with the impact of the crisis of addiction and we're committed to working with you to expand access to treatment. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Noll, Interim State Lobbyist
City of Portland