



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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February 21, 2020

The Honorable House Speaker Tina Kotek
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, Room 269
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Speaker Kotek:

I'm writing this letter in enthusiastic support of HB 4001, which provides the financial means for the City of Salem to act on the recent State of Oregon Shelter Study that identified the need for a navigation center in Salem.

As you know, the city of Salem, like so many other cities in Oregon, is struggling with issues related to homelessness. This significant and meaningful investment in our community following passage of HB 4001 will permit us to build upon our already strong relationship with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVCAA). The planned navigation center will provide a 90-day duration stay in order to transition persons from the streets and sidewalks into housing programs. Operating as a low-barrier center, the navigation center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and provide intensive case management for each individual passing through its doors.

The City of Salem hopes to soon supplant current efforts to proactively address homelessness and supports a more coordinated effort to connect people to public benefits, health services, and permanent housing through the City's and MWVCAA's Housing First philosophy. As Salem's Mayor, I urge passage of HB 4001 so that we, as a city, can better assist those in our community with the most immediate needs.

Sincerely,

Chuck Bennett
Mayor

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

❖ Reasonable accommodation and accessibility services will be provided upon request ❖
Servicios razonables de alojamiento y accesibilidad se facilitarán por petición