

February 3, 2021

House Committee on Human Services
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Williams and Members of the House Committee on Human Services,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding HB 2397. While the City of Gresham supports the approach of the pilot program, I am writing to express some concerns with the bill as currently written.

The Senior Emergency Medical Services Innovation Program outlined in Section 1 has the potential to identify innovative strategies, increase efficiencies, and develop solutions tailored to local communities. The City of Gresham supports increasing partnerships between industry and public safety providers for improved service delivery. We believe these pilot projects can create meaningful impact through proactive relationships that create incentives for positive solutions. While these pilot projects can serve as important testing grounds for innovation, the pilots would be better served with further definition of the revenue from the Quality Care Fund dedicated to this program.

While the City supports the creation the pilot program, the preemption language in Section 2 is concerning. While we support the direction towards positive, innovative solutions that can transition from a punitive approach, the legislation as currently written unnecessarily limits the ability for local jurisdictions to regulate as needed. We believe this language can be revised in a way that is compatible with uniform, transparent care standards across the state. We ask you to consider amendments to preserve local decision making where appropriate. We support the sunset provision in the year 2027 to give all parties the chance to review and refine this system at a future date.

Sincerely,

Brian Monberg
Government Affairs Manager
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