



MAYOR'S OFFICE
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February 11, 2026

Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Rob Nosse, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing in support of the \$2.75 million capital funding request for a Safe, Clean and Healthy Capital District. This critical funding advances a comprehensive program designed to enhance the safety, livability, and cleanliness of our community and the Capital District. This initiative addresses the growing need for effective public safety and health services in areas experiencing higher volumes of requests for police and emergency medical response.

Our funding request of \$2,750,000 is essential to keep these vital services, currently funded as a pilot program. The City of Salem faces significant financial challenges due to the estimated \$7.6 million loss in property taxes from state government buildings. Ongoing support for the Safe, Clean and Healthy Capital City initiative is crucial to maintaining public safety and health services in our community and of our State Capital.

The key components of this pilot initiative are:

1. **Safety:** Providing for seven days a week of connection to services with our Homeless Services Team police officers. These officers are trained to provide proactive policing and are familiar with the unique needs of our unsheltered populations, ensuring they are connected to vital services and shelter.
2. **Cleanliness:** Providing for seven days a week cleaning services in high-response areas for public health and safety. The Clean Team responds to community reports, cleans and sanitizes our public spaces, making them safer and more welcoming for all.
3. **Health:** The introduction of a co-response model involving the Salem Fire Department and Community Health is a significant advancement in our approach to emergency response. By deploying a paramedic, EMT, and Marion County mental health clinician to incidents involving emotional disturbances and health emergencies, we can provide timely and appropriate care while also conducting proactive outreach to prevent crises before they occur.

Since November, we are already seeing faster responses to unmanaged encampments, improved care for individuals experiencing behavioral health or substance use crises, and increased connections to essential services. We are three weeks into the REACH co-response and expect to see fewer repeat emergency calls, allowing our fire companies and ambulances to respond to

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other emergencies more effectively. Ultimately, this initiative will result in cost savings throughout our public health and safety systems.

The City of Salem is committed to fostering a safe, clean, and healthy environment for all residents and visitors. We urge you to support this initiative and provide the necessary funding to ensure its continued success.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie Hoy".

Julie Hoy
Mayor, City of Salem

cc: Salem Legislative Delegation