



City of Tacoma

City Council

Speaker Laurie Jinkins
339C Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Jake Fey
415 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Senator Yasmin Trudeau
227 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40427
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Mari Leavitt
332 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Dan Bronoske
132D Legislative Building
PO Box 40600
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Senator T'wina Nobles
416 Legislative Building
PO Box 40428
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Representative Melanie Morgan
417 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Representative Sharlett Mena
319 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504

Senator Steve Conway
241 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40429
Olympia, WA 98504



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[This letter will be sent to each addressee individually]

May 16, 2023

Dear [Legislator],

The Tacoma City Council would like to thank each of you and the legislature for passing 2E2SSB 5536 during the special session to address controlled substances laws in Washington.

We greatly appreciate that the legislation prioritizes treatment and services while balancing the need to provide consistency in our state laws. You demonstrated support for ensuring that treatment is the focus through the provisions in the bill and the funding to support additional treatment across the state.

The pretrial diversion program and ability to vacate a conviction allows for an individual to access needed treatment without a conviction on their record. This is very important to the Council as we recognize the disproportionate impact the war on drugs has had on communities of color. We believe that support for individuals with substance use disorders is critically important to assist in addressing the underlying issues.

We agree with the approach taken in the bill and appreciate that there will be a uniform law statewide governing possession and public use of controlled substances. This is a far better result than the likely alternative outcome which would have been a patchwork of varying laws across the state that lack of clarity around what actions are unlawful in the different jurisdictions.

Thank you for your efforts to provide this clarity and certainty for the state and the residents of Tacoma that centers opportunities for people to get the help they need and ensures we can keep our residents safe.

Sincerely,

[City Council Member signatures to be added pending approval]