

**State Representative  
Duane Stark  
House District 4**



**State Representative  
Carl Wilson  
House District 3**

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***New Law Expanding Sober Centers Gets Special Recognition by Governor Brown***

(Salem) Oregon Governor Kate Brown held a special ceremonial bill signing event in Salem today to show her support for [House Bill 2936](#) which expands the use of sober facilities across the state. The measure passed the legislature unanimously during the 2015 legislative session and was spearheaded by State Representatives [Duane Stark](#) and [Carl Wilson](#) from the Grants Pass area.

"The consequences of untreated substance use disorders take a human and social toll on all Oregonians. These services in a supportive setting will keep individuals out of jail and encourage them to receive the treatment and recovery services they need," said Governor Brown.

"Many communities, especially those in rural Oregon, have limited options for dealing with severely intoxicated people, they either use costly jail beds or emergency rooms." said Representative Stark after today's bill signing ceremony. "Sobering centers offer law enforcement a cost effective and compassionate alternative."

A group of local volunteers formed the Grants Pass Sobering Center non-profit organization to build a facility in Josephine County. However, Representatives Stark and Wilson felt it would be difficult to establish the new facility without changing state law to enhance legal immunity and add more accountability measures. Both goals were accomplished with enactment of HB 2936.

"The Grants Pass Sobering Center group deserves a lot of credit for bringing this community based solution forward," said State Representative Carl Wilson. "They have raised most of the money, and are doing all the leg work to make this project a reality." Project coordinators hope to have the facility operating and, as required by House Bill 2936, registered with the Oregon Health Authority after January 1, 2016.

"It's important to recognize sober facilities don't offer treatment services, but they do have partnerships with addiction treatment programs and other agencies to make referrals for those people who want additional services," explained Rick Jones, Chairman of the Grants Pass Sober Center Board.

"It's an important day that represents a lot of work by many where a public-private partnership in a local community showed that great things can be accomplished," said Grants Pass Police Chief Bill Landis. "We really appreciate all the efforts by our local legislators. The citizens of Grants Pass will certainly benefit from this bill as well as several other communities throughout the state."

The legislature also authorized \$500,000 in start-up fund for the Grants Pass sobering facility as part of the Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) program budget in [Senate Bill 5526](#). That budget bill contained a total of \$6 million for addictions treatment and recovery support which included funding for detox facilities and sober centers around the state.

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