

From: [Connie M. Allison](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Proposed Legislation
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2026 4:16:35 PM

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Dear Council,

I am a resident of Mill Creek and moved here in 2010 from King County, where I was born and raised.

The housing first experiment must come to an end and try something else to save as many people as possible from mental illness and drug dependency.

Please support Council Member Nehring's four pieces of legislation to shift away from the failed policies and try a different approach.

My family was torn apart my drug addition and I had to walk away and rebuild. My ex husband has been to treatment several times and still struggles. Accountability is necessary and the 12 steps work if people work them. I have seen many successes and there is always up hope.

Please have the courage to drive in a new direction as a county and thank you for the work you do in service of the community.

Connie Allison
425-891-8982

From: [Mary Ann Monty](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Drug policies
Date: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:32:28 PM

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We totally support the policies proposed by Nate Nehring regarding drug abuse in Snohomish County. It's time for common sense to prevail.

Ralph and Mary Ann Monty

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From: [GREGORY T. KULSETH](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Support Councilmember Nate Nehring's Proposals to Address the Overdose Epidemic
Date: Monday, May 25, 2026 12:52:16 PM

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Snohomish County Councilmembers:

Please support and implement Snohomish County Councilmember Nate Nehring recently introduced four proposals aimed at addressing the worsening overdose epidemic and restoring accountability to public policy:

Removing restrictions which limit the treatment options available to those seeking help.

Redirecting funds from programs which enable drug use to recovery efforts that treat addiction issues.

Stopping taxpayer funding of distributing free drug tools/paraphernalia to those living on the street.

Protecting our youth by adding fentanyl and other harmful substances to the child exposure laws - this makes it a crime to allow minors access to lethal drugs.

Washington families deserve policies focused on recovery, treatment, and safer communities — not more excuses for failed policies that continue costing lives.

Thank you,
Greg Kulseth
425-949-9528

From: [Nancy Kulseth](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Support Councilmember Nate Nehring's Proposals to address the overdose epidemic
Date: Wednesday, May 27, 2026 12:30:57 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Snohomish County Councilmembers:

Please support and implement Snohomish County Councilmember Nate Nehring's recently introduced four proposals aimed at addressing the worsening overdose epidemic and restoring accountability to public policy:

Removing restrictions which limit the treatment options available to those seeking help.

Redirecting funds from programs which enable drug use to recovery efforts that treat addiction issues.

Stopping taxpayer funding of distributing free drug tools/paraphernalia to those living on the street.

Protecting our youth by adding fentanyl and other harmful substances to the child exposure laws - this makes it a crime to allow minors access to lethal drugs.

Washington families deserve policies focused on recovery, treatment, and safer communities — not more excuses for failed policies that continue costing lives.

Thank you,

Nancy Kulseth

From: [Rachel Downes](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Comment re 26-018 and 26-019
Date: Monday, June 1, 2026 2:09:05 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[PEH Exec County Council Comment June 2026.pdf](#)

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Good afternoon,

On behalf of the members of the Partnership to End Homelessness Executive Committee, I am submitting the attached public comment on proposed ordinances 26-018 and 26-019 in advance of the June 10 public hearing. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Thank you!

Rachel

Rachel Wilkinson Downes (She/Her)

Chief Strategic Officer

(425) 347-6556 ext. 273 | 5830 Evergreen Way, Everett, WA 98203





June 1, 2026

Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Opposition to Proposed Ordinances 26-018 and 26-019

Dear Chair and Councilmembers,

As members of the Snohomish County Partnership to End Homelessness Executive Committee, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to Proposed Ordinance 26-018, relating to the Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health (AHBH/HB 1590) Sales and Use Tax Fund, and Proposed Ordinance 26-019, relating to County funding policies for housing programs.

We appreciate the Council's commitment to improving behavioral health outcomes, strengthening recovery pathways, increasing public safety, and promoting accountability within Snohomish County's homelessness response system. Those goals are broadly shared across providers, local governments, behavioral health partners, and affordable housing developers throughout the county. However, we strongly believe these ordinances, as currently drafted, would undermine rather than strengthen the County's long-term capacity to respond effectively to homelessness, housing instability, substance use disorder, and behavioral health challenges.

The concerns raised below are not philosophical objections to accountability, recovery-oriented programming, or behavioral health investment. Rather, they are concerns regarding the policy mechanisms proposed, the legal and operational ambiguities embedded within the ordinances, and the significant unintended consequences likely to result from their adoption.

Opposition to Ordinance 26-019

Ordinance 26-019 proposes restrictions on Snohomish County's ability to prioritize or incentivize "Housing First" or low-barrier housing programs while simultaneously prohibiting the County from deprioritizing programs that require sobriety or participation in treatment.

This ordinance seeks to address a problem that has not been demonstrated to exist within the current Snohomish County funding structure. There are no known County policies that categorically prohibit recovery-oriented housing, nor are there County-funded programs operating without behavioral expectations, participation standards, case management

engagement, or other programmatic requirements. The ordinance introduces vague and undefined terminology that creates significant implementation and administrative concerns. Terms such as “minimal entry requirements,” “minimal participation requirements,” and “accountability” are not defined within Snohomish County Code, Washington statute, or established contracting standards. The absence of objective definitions would create inconsistent interpretation among County departments, contracting staff, providers, and evaluators, increasing administrative burden while exposing both the County and providers to confusion and potential disputes regarding compliance.

The ordinance also contains internally contradictory provisions. Section 3 broadly defines County funding to include “all direct and pass-through funding awarded by or through the County,” while Section 2 simultaneously exempts state and federal grants or contracts where compliance with the ordinance would jeopardize external funding. Because many state and federal housing and behavioral health resources are administered locally as pass-through funding, these sections appear to conflict directly with one another, creating uncertainty regarding applicability and enforcement.

From a systems perspective, the ordinance advances a false binary between housing stability and accountability. In practice, effective homelessness response systems require a full continuum of interventions, including emergency shelter, outreach, behavioral health treatment, recovery housing, low-barrier supportive housing, permanent supportive housing, and deeply affordable housing production. These approaches are complementary rather than mutually exclusive.

Housing stability is frequently the prerequisite that allows individuals to meaningfully engage in treatment, employment, recovery, medical care, and long-term stabilization. Conversely, treatment and recovery supports are often essential to maintaining housing stability. Effective systems therefore integrate housing, services, behavioral healthcare, and accountability mechanisms together rather than treating them as competing philosophies.

Opposition to Ordinance 26-018

We also oppose Ordinance 26-018, which would significantly restructure the County’s Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health (AHBH/HB 1590) funding framework by segregating behavioral health capital funding from affordable housing capital funding and increasing the percentage dedicated to behavioral health facilities.

We fully support expanding behavioral health infrastructure and treatment capacity in Snohomish County. However, this ordinance attempts to achieve that goal by reducing the flexibility and effectiveness of one of the County’s only locally controlled affordable housing capital resources.

The HB 1590 sales tax authority represents a critically important local financing tool that allows affordable housing projects to become financially feasible and competitive for outside investment, including Low Income Housing Tax Credits, state Housing Trust Funds, and other leveraged capital sources. In today's development environment, which is characterized by escalating construction costs, rising interest rates, and declining tax credit equity pricing, stable and predictable local gap financing is more important than ever.

Reducing or constraining these already limited local housing resources will have significant long-term consequences for affordable housing production throughout Snohomish County, particularly for deeply affordable and supportive housing developments typically undertaken by nonprofit developers. Developers require dependable funding commitments years in advance when planning projects. Altering allocation structures midstream creates uncertainty that may discourage future affordable housing investment in Snohomish County altogether.

Additionally, the current AHBH structure was intentionally designed with flexibility so that funding could respond to changing community needs and project readiness over time. The proposed segregation of funding pools would eliminate that flexibility and could result in one category accumulating unused balances while urgently needed projects in another category remain unfunded. The County has already benefited from the current framework's adaptability. For example, the Council previously utilized flexible AHBH funding allocations to support the Lynnwood Crisis Care Facility. Under the proposed ordinance structure, similar future adjustments may not be possible.

Most fundamentally, behavioral health systems and affordable housing systems are interdependent. Expanding treatment access without ensuring stable and affordable housing options for individuals exiting treatment undermines long-term recovery outcomes and increases the likelihood of recurring homelessness and system instability.

Need for Additional Engagement and Analysis

Both ordinances propose substantial policy and funding changes with significant implications for housing providers, behavioral health organizations, local governments, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Yet these proposals have advanced without the level of provider engagement, implementation analysis, financial modeling, or stakeholder coordination typically necessary for durable and effective policy development.

We respectfully urge the Council to reject these ordinances and instead direct the County Executive's office to convene a collaborative process involving individuals with lived expertise, homelessness service providers, affordable housing developers, behavioral health providers, recovery housing operators, Cities and regional partners, County staff, public health providers, and public safety leaders. Such a process would allow the County to more clearly define intended

outcomes, assess operational impacts, evaluate legal and fiscal implications, and pursue a comprehensive “both/and” strategy that strengthens behavioral health systems and affordable housing capacity simultaneously.

Requested Action

The members of the Snohomish County Partnership to End Homelessness Executive Committee respectfully request that the Snohomish County Council reject Ordinances 26-018 and 26-019 as currently drafted and direct the Executive’s Office to engage providers, community partners, and people with lived expertise in a collaborative policy development process.

In order to achieve the goals that these ordinances are meant to accomplish, it is critical that next steps are carefully considered and time is given to craft policies that improve our homelessness response system across sectors, preserve the flexibility and effectiveness of existing AHBH funding structures, and pursue additive investments in behavioral health capacity that do not reduce affordable housing production and preservation resources.

Snohomish County’s challenges related to homelessness, behavioral health, addiction, and housing instability are complex and interconnected. They require coordinated, evidence-based, and operationally practical solutions, not policies that unintentionally create new administrative burdens, constrain local flexibility, or force critical systems into competition with one another.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of Snohomish County residents.

Respectfully,

The members of the Snohomish County Partnership to End Homelessness Executive Committee:

- Mary Cline-Stively, Co-Chair, ChildStrive
- Jane Pak, Co-Chair, Snohomish County Legal Services
- Joe Alonzo, Cocoon House
- Mary Anne Dillon, YWCA Seattle, King, Snohomish
- Rachel Downes, Housing Hope
- Jodie Halsne, Housing Authority of Snohomish County
- John Hull, Everett Gospel Mission
- Desmond Pullen, PEH Racial Equity Advisory Board
- Mindy Woods, City of Edmonds Human Services



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June 4, 2026

Members of the Snohomish County Council
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

RE: Support for Addiction and Recovery Legislative Package

Dear Members of the Council:

On behalf of the Snohomish County Camano Association of REALTORS® (SCCAR), this letter is submitted in support of the four-part legislative package introduced to address addiction, expand behavioral health treatment capacity, and better align county policy with accountability and recovery-oriented outcomes.

Our members work in communities throughout Snohomish County and see firsthand the impacts that untreated substance abuse, behavioral health instability, and unsafe public conditions have on neighborhoods, housing stability, and overall community well-being. As REALTORS®, our members have a direct interest in safe neighborhoods, stable housing conditions, healthy communities, and public policies that support long-term community vitality. SCCAR supports policies that strengthen communities, protect residents, and make effective use of public resources. In that regard, this legislative package represents a thoughtful effort to pair compassion with accountability while prioritizing treatment and recovery.

First, SCCAR supports the proposal to prevent the County from incentivizing county-funded housing programs to adhere exclusively to strict Housing First policies and instead allow greater flexibility for programs that prioritize accountability alongside compassion. Publicly funded housing responses should be structured to promote long-term recovery, better outcomes for participants, and improved conditions for the surrounding community.

Second, SCCAR supports increasing the share of funding from the County’s Affordable Housing and Behavioral Health Fund directed toward behavioral health facilities from the current \$3 million annually, or 12.2 percent, to 20 percent. Expanding treatment, recovery, and stabilization capacity is a practical and necessary investment that can better address substance abuse and mental health challenges affecting families and neighborhoods across Snohomish County.

Third, SCCAR supports the proposal to prohibit local taxpayer dollars from being used to purchase and distribute drug paraphernalia. County resources should be directed toward policies and programs that encourage treatment, recovery, and accountability rather than actions that may enable continued drug abuse.

Fourth, SCCAR supports the proposal to criminalize the exposure of minors to deadly drugs such as fentanyl. Protecting children from dangerous drug exposure is a fundamental public safety



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responsibility, and this ordinance would help ensure stronger accountability in situations involving serious risk to minors.

Taken together, these four proposals reflect a more balanced and responsible county approach to addiction and recovery, one that supports treatment and behavioral health investment while also reinforcing accountability and community safety. For these reasons, the Snohomish County Camano Association of REALTORS® respectfully urges the full County Council to advance and approve this legislative package.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Glenda Krull

Glenda Krull, 2026 President
Snohomish County Camano Association of REALTORS®

From: [Lynsey Gagnon](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Health & Human Svcs Committee - Ordinance 26-019
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2026 10:56:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Interfaith Family Shelter Public Comment for Ordinance 26-019.pdf](#)

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Hello – I'd like to submit the attached written public comment in regards to Ordinance Number 26-019.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this.

Lynsey Gagnon

Executive Director

Interfaith Family Shelter

(425) 252-6672 ext. 2201



Public Comment – Ordinance 26-019

My name is Lynsey Gagnon, and I serve as Executive Director of Interfaith Family Shelter, where we provide housing first–focused emergency shelter for families with children across Snohomish County. We are one of only a few emergency shelters for families with children in the County and provide approximately 30% of the total capacity for general family shelter units.

I appreciate the intent behind this ordinance to support a range of housing models. At the same time, I have concerns about its potential impact on access for families in crisis. In our work, low-barrier entry is not about removing accountability, it is about ensuring that families can come indoors quickly, stabilize, and then successfully engage in services. Many of the families we serve are navigating trauma, job loss, and housing instability, and requiring preconditions to access shelter can create delays that deepen their crisis.

Housing first approaches are widely recognized because they help people access safety first, which is especially critical for children. 60% of Interfaith’s residents are children, and we served 194 children last year alone.

I want to ensure that any changes to funding policy do not unintentionally make it harder for the most vulnerable families to access shelter when they need it most.

We support a system with multiple approaches, but we encourage the County to maintain strong alignment with evidence-based practices and preserve prioritization for low-barrier access to housing.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to families in our community.

Lynsey Gagnon

Executive Director

Interfaith Family Shelter

(425) 252-6672 ext. 2201



From: [Chuck Lie](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Ordinances 26-018 and 26-019
Date: Monday, June 8, 2026 6:20:23 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Chair and Members of the County Council, I am unable to attend the public hearing on June 10th in person or remotely. I submit this testimony for the public record of the hearing. I respectfully request that the Snohomish County Council reject Ordinances 26-018 and 26-019 and direct the Executive's Office to engage providers, community partners, and people with lived expertise in a collaborative policy development process.

In order to achieve the goals that these ordinances are meant to accomplish, it is critical that next steps are carefully considered and time is given to craft policies that improve our homelessness response system across sectors, preserve the flexibility and effectiveness of existing funding structures, and pursue additive investments in behavioral health capacity that do not reduce affordable housing production and preservation resources.

Snohomish County's challenges related to homelessness, behavioral health, addiction, and housing instability are complex and interconnected. They require coordinated, evidence-based, and operationally practical solutions, not policies that create new administrative burdens, constrain local flexibility, or force critical systems into competition with one another.

As these two ordinances are written, I read a seemingly polite but vindictive/intolerant route to adopt/codify a policy of stigmatizing a small segment of our society creating an out cast group that the county would rather see die in the ditch. The county will do much better by adopting policies that build bridges to rehabilitation and re-introduction of these troubled citizens back into day to day society.

Respectively Submitted

Charles R Lie
voter and fixed income retired tax payer
Gold Bar, Washington

June 10, 2026

Dear Snohomish County Council,

My name is Athena Ewing. For nearly four years, my husband, Steve Ewing, and I led a weekly 12-step addiction recovery group. We now oversee a dozen such groups throughout the region. We have learned a lot about how to best support suffering individuals, and wanted to provide insights that may help you in your decision process for Ordinances 26-018 and 26-019.

Addiction is born from trauma. Throughout the addiction recovery healing process, many experiences surface, some of which haunt a person's every waking moment, and some that have been repressed as a way of self-preservation. When a person receives trauma counseling and support, their healing from addiction is deeper and lasts longer. When their trauma remains unaddressed, a person will relapse with their same addiction(s) or will switch to a new addiction because the root cause of their addiction remains unaddressed. Every person I have met who suffers from addiction has had to address their trauma and resulting mental and behavioral health in order to heal.

The first step towards healing is for one to admit that they are powerless to overcome their addiction without help and that their life has become unmanageable. Without taking this initial step, any help offered will not make lasting improvement--and often delays recovery--because an individual must have decided that they are ready to change before assistance will be used to appropriately better their situation. Thus, we are highly supportive of compassionate accountability. Without it, resources are wasted, and their subsequent delayed recovery is heart-breaking.

While we have been serving in the community, my husband has also seen identical patterns in the tens of thousands of individuals he's worked with in his career with the WA State Department of Corrections. We know people who want to change can change with the right support and requirements. Thank you for serving and caring for those suffering from addiction and those who love them.

Sincerely,

Athena Ewing

From: [Alex Konicke](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Written Public Comment in Support of Proposals #1 and #2
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 11:52:24 AM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Dear Snohomish County Council Members,

My name is Alex Konicke, and I am a Snohomish County resident, small business owner, author, and mental health advocate.

I had hoped to provide public comment during today's meeting, but since I was not called upon, I wanted to submit my comments in writing for your consideration.

In 2016, my family experienced a severe mental health crisis that resulted in the loss of my mother's life. It was a devastating event that changed my life forever. In the years since, I've dedicated much of my time to sharing our story through public speaking, writing, and community engagement to raise awareness about mental illness, addiction, recovery, and the importance of accessible support systems.

Through that work, I've had the privilege of connecting with countless individuals and families throughout our region. I've heard stories from parents searching for help for their children, spouses trying to support loved ones in crisis, and individuals who desperately wanted treatment but couldn't find it when they needed it most. One theme comes up again and again: people often don't receive meaningful support until a crisis has already occurred.

I support Proposal #1 and efforts to criminalize the exposure of minors to deadly drugs such as fentanyl. Protecting children from substances that are fueling addiction, overdoses, and loss throughout our communities is an important public safety measure.

While I can't speak to every detail of the proposals before you today, I can speak to the reality that behavioral health challenges affect every part of our community. They affect families, schools, workplaces, public safety, healthcare systems, and local economies. Mental illness and substance use disorders do not discriminate, and the need for treatment continues to grow.

If sharing my family's story has taught me anything, it's that awareness is important, but awareness without action doesn't change outcomes. Treatment and support matter. Access matters. Capacity matters. When people are able to receive care before reaching a breaking point, lives can be changed, families can stay together, and communities become stronger.

For that reason, I also support Proposal #2 and efforts to direct more resources toward behavioral health treatment, recovery, and stabilization services. Investing in treatment is not only compassionate, it's proactive. It recognizes that people deserve opportunities for recovery and that communities benefit when those opportunities exist.

I believe that expanding access to behavioral health services is an investment in the health and well-being of Snohomish County. It is an investment in prevention, recovery, and hope for

individuals and families who may be facing some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration of these proposals.

Sincerely,

Alex Konicke
Snohomish County Resident
Author, Speaker, and Mental Health Advocate

Note: I was on the Zoom call today, and no one called on me, even though I had my hand raised. If there was something else I needed to do to get called on, please let me know.

--

Alex L. Konicke
Amazon Best-Selling Author
Author — *Evil Among Us: A True Story of Surviving Tragedy Through Murder, Fire & Forgiveness*
425-327-5019
Author@AlexKonicke.com
www.AlexKonicke.com

From: [Nelson, Erik](#)
To: [Contact Council](#)
Subject: Ordinance 26-013, 018 & 019
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 12:15:32 PM

CAUTION : This email originated from outside of this organization. Please exercise caution with links and attachments.

Erik Nelson, Edmonds, Washington

26-013: This vote should be a simple yes for all of you. Should not need any comments from the public encouraging you it is a good idea.

26-018 & 019:

I've been sober for 23 years and I am active on an ongoing basis in the recovery community of Snohomish County. Giving someone a bed, without requiring them to commit to living clean and sober, is simply enabling addicts and alcoholics to have a more comfortable place to use and rest.

We are not bad people, we are sick people who need help. That help does not come first in the form of a roof and a pillow. It needs to come first in the form of the opportunity to access treatment. The counties part needs to be to offer treatment of some sort, it is the addict & alcoholics part to commit to live clean.

The oxford houses have an amazing success rating, but they have rules. If you want to live there you have to be clean. If you break the rules you get kicked out.

This is truly a compassionate position, designed to help the addict and alcoholic.

Each of us who are living clean and sober had to hit our bottom. That bottom is different for each individual, but what is consistent after hitting your bottom is a willingness. A willingness to live differently, to acknowledge our addiction and to finally be willing to accept help.

I encourage you to pass all three ordinances. Tax dollars for housing for addicts and alcoholics should only be spent when the housing requires a commitment to sober living.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Erik Nelson