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## **OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bipartisan Public Safety Roundtable Centers Common Interest in Community Safety**

*Just weeks away from the February session, legislators unite around strengthening  
and improving our treatment and public safety systems*

**LEABURG, OR** – Today, House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) joined a roundtable convened by Representative Charlie Conrad (R-Eastern Lane County) to learn directly from local elected and public health officials, first responders, and law enforcement about what they’re experiencing in their communities as they respond to the ongoing drug addiction and mental health crisis. Representative John Lively (D-Springfield) also participated in the conversation. The conversation took place at McKenzie Fire and Rescue between Springfield and Blue River.

“The addiction crisis we’re seeing in our communities right now is heartbreaking,” **said Speaker Rayfield**. “Getting to sit down with the folks actively responding to the crisis is invaluable as we work towards a strong and productive February session. I’m grateful for Rep. Conrad’s ongoing commitment to centering crisis responders in our work to find evidence-based solutions that meet all Oregonians where they are.”

“Direct, engaging conversations like the one we had today about the challenges we’re facing and how to fix them are catalysts for change,” **said Representative Conrad**. “Getting all of these folks in one room to share their expertise, best practices, and how we can be better partners is a great example of the work happening in every corner of the state to ensure our crisis response and pathways to treatment are working for Oregon families.”

“Local leaders across Oregon are collaborating to bolster the existing structures and programs that work for their communities,” **said Representative Lively**. “We don’t need to reinvent the wheel:

making sure folks have the resources they need to help their own is a vital piece of our response to this crisis and to making Oregon a better place to live, work, and raise a family.”

Meeting attendees include:

**Darren Bucich**, McKenzie Fire and Rescue Chief

**Andrew Smith**, Pleasant Hill / Goshen Fire Chief

**Michelle Amberg**, Creswell City Manager

**Ethan Nelson**, City of Eugene, Intergovernmental Relations and Sustainability

**James Cleavenger**, City of Oakridge (Former Oakridge police officer)

**Alex Cuyler**, Lane County Intergovernmental Relations Manager

**Jocelyn Warren**, Lane County Public Health, Coalition of Local Health Officials

**John Wooten**, South Lane Fire Chief

**Don Bennett**, Lowell Mayor

**Steven Wallace**, Mohawk Valley Fire Chief

**Kevin Martin**, Oakridge Police Department Chief

**Jake Boone**, Cottage Grove Asst. City Manager



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