



from the

OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

www.oregonlegislature.gov/rayfield

900 Court St. NE,
Salem, Oregon 97301

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 19, 2023

Press Contact: Hazel Tyliniski, Hazel.Tyliniski@oregonlegislature.gov

Speaker Rayfield Sits in on Treatment Court Proceedings

Visit highlights evidence-based program promising meaningful change, outcomes

Portland, OR - Today, House Speaker Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) sat in on Multnomah County's [STEP](#) (Strategic Treatment and Engagement Program) Court proceedings and met with the team at STEP. Offered as an alternative to incarceration, STEP has accepted 87 participants since January 22, 2023.

“Treatment courts like STEP are evidence-based programs proven to be effective in helping people begin the process of recovering from substance abuse and keep them from going back to jail,” said Speaker Rayfield. “As the [Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response](#) works to find proven, timely solutions to address the drug crisis, it’s critical that we rally around well-vetted policies and practices like specialty courts that are critical to addressing the addiction crisis and helping the maximum number of Oregonians.”

How do specialty courts like STEP work? Before a participant shows up for their court date, the judge, attorneys, Police Officers, treatment providers, and court coordinators meet to review each individual participant due in court that day. Successes and challenges are discussed, as are potential incentives and sanctions. All team members have input, with the judge making the ultimate decision.

###