



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2023

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

“It Should Be Easier to Get Treatment Than Fentanyl”

Video and key takeaways from the first meeting of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

SALEM, Ore - Yesterday, October 18, 2023, the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response had its first meeting. Committee members and the public heard from practitioners, services providers, and researchers about Oregon’s existing public health infrastructure and its role as part of our response to the drug crisis. The next meeting of the committee will focus on the state’s public safety response.

“We heard over and over yesterday: Oregon was struggling to treat addiction before fentanyl changed the game, and now, we have even further to go to keep people safe and healthy. While it’s clear that we have a lot more work to do, I believe we are one step closer to addressing critical issues in Oregon’s addiction response system,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee.

A [full recording of the meeting can be found here](#) and [the full agenda can be found here](#).

“Oregonians across the state are providing vital prevention and treatment services, meeting people where they’re at and saving lives. They need more support to maintain and expand this work,” said **Representative Jason Kropf (D - Bend)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee. “The ideas and perspectives we heard yesterday and will hear in our next meeting from public safety officials are critical as we further dig into how to deliver the solutions Oregonians need now.”

The Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety is the [Legislature's hub](#) for the coordination of an urgent public health and public safety response to the drug crisis. Through

the 2024 session and beyond, this bipartisan, bicameral group of legislators will provide oversight of state programs and funding while seeking short- and long- term solutions to keep Oregonians safe and healthy.

This committee is co-chaired by **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D – Beaverton & SW Portland)** and **Representative Jason Kropf (D – Bend)**. The full membership of the committee can be found [here](#).

###