



**OFFICES OF SENATOR KATE LIEBER
AND REPRESENTATIVE JASON KROPF**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2024

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Inaction is Not an Option

*Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response on
new CDC data on overdose deaths*

SALEM, OR – [New predictive data](#) from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) that found that overdose deaths are rising at a faster rate in Oregon than anywhere else in the country. Oregon saw a 41% increase in overdose deaths between 2022 and 2023. Co-chairs of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response, **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)** and **Representative Jason Kropf (D - Bend)** released the following statement in response:

“Inaction is not an option. This is another sobering reminder of why we have to act this session to keep our communities safe and save lives. We’re working hard to finalize a plan that accomplishes both.

“It is clear that Oregon’s current approach to the drug crisis is not working, and we know the War on Drugs didn’t work either. Our goal is to put politics aside so we can chart a new course to a safer, healthier Oregon together.”

###