



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### **Oregon Drug Intervention Plan Passes Senate**

*Treatment-focused plan will give providers and law enforcement the tools they need to keep people safe and save lives from the drug crisis*

**SALEM, OR** – Today, the Senate passed the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan ([House Bill 4002](#), [House Bill 5204](#)) to give providers and law enforcement the tools they need to keep people safe and save lives from the drug crisis. Learn more about both bills [here](#).

Oregon loses someone to a drug overdose every 5 hours. In response to this urgent challenge, lawmakers formed the [Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response](#). The Committee serves as the legislative hub for the creation of an immediate, coordinated public health and public safety answer to the drug crisis with the goal of making Oregon's streets safer and saving lives.

“We must take action. The drug crisis is killing Oregonians and threatening the health and safety of our communities. The Oregon Drug Intervention Plan is a treatment-focused approach that gives providers and law enforcement the tools they need to keep people safe and save lives,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D - Beaverton & SW Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response.

The Committee met five times before the start of the 2024 Legislative Session to hear from experts and Oregonians about current practices and potential solutions to the drug crisis. The first phase of their work culminated with the introduction and refinement of the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan.

The vehicle for the committee's policy recommendations, HB 4002, works to:

- Increase access to **Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)** by eliminating health insurance barriers and allowing pharmacists to provide emergency prescription refills.
- **Update the welfare hold timeline** from 48 to 72 hours to respond to fentanyl.
- Expand Certified Behavioral Health Clinics to **treat Oregonians with both mental health and substance use needs** and improve care coordination.
- Ensure **consistent, high-quality care statewide** by applying CCO network adequacy standards to addiction treatment providers.
- Build up the **drug treatment and mental health workforce** by studying how to reduce barriers to credentialing.
- Initiate a strategic plan to **prevent and treat youth drug addiction**.
- Improve Oregon's treatment system with the **Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability**.
- **Stop more drug dealers** by restoring Boyd deliveries and enhancing sentences for dealers who target people living in shelters, those in recovery, and people in parks.
- **Intervene on public drug use** and connect Oregonians to treatment via deflection programs. [\[More information on the new unclassified misdemeanor\]](#)
- **Monitor law enforcement interactions for racial and other demographic disparities** through data collection and legislative review.

Additionally, the committee recommended wide-reaching investments that will address the root causes of addiction in Oregon and fill gaps in the public safety system.

HB 5204 invests \$211 million in shovel-ready projects to expand behavioral health treatment, apprenticeships and training for behavioral health workers, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in jails, addiction prevention programs and education, deflection-to-treatment programs, drug courts, and public defense capacity.

“This package builds on the work the legislature has been doing over the last several years to make treatment more available and address the gaps in our public safety system,” said **Senator Elizabeth Steiner (D - NW Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “We’re targeting these investments at projects that can get up and running quickly to provide the most services to the communities with the highest needs. I’m particularly excited about the investments in prevention, which will be absolutely critical to our ability to solve this crisis.”

Highlights of the proposed investments in HB 5204 include:

- **Shovel-Ready Behavioral Health Treatment Projects** (\$85.4 million), including:
  - Multnomah County Sobering and Drop off Center (Downtown Portland) - creating a venue for emergency behavioral health services, coordination between providers and public safety.

- [4D Recovery](#) (NE Portland) - youth substance use residential and outpatient treatment services.
- [BestCare Treatment Latino Services Expansion](#) (Madras) - building a new 16-bed facility for Latino males and converting an existing facility to Oregon's first female-specific Latina treatment facility.
- [Klamath Basin Behavioral Health](#) (Klamath Falls) - constructing a residential treatment facility with a crisis stabilization center.
- [Lifeways, Inc](#) (Ontario) - funding the Ontario Medical Plaza project to convert vacant retail space into an integrated healthcare facility with supported housing units.
- **Deflection programs** (\$30.5 million) - including Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) funding
- **Medication Assisted Treatment in jails** (\$10 million)
- **Curricula for Oregon schools about the dangers of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl** (\$2 million)
- Apprenticeships and training programs for behavioral health care workers through the United We Heal Medicaid Payment Program, **task force on barriers and safety for behavioral health care workers** – formerly [Senate Bill 1594](#) (\$4.8 million)
- **Training programs for behavioral health care workers** at Oregon colleges – formerly [Senate Bill 1592](#) (\$4 million)
- **Specialty courts, including drug courts** (\$12 million)
- **Funding for Criminal Justice Commission** to set up and coordinate deflection programs and other related agency needs (\$3.45 million)

The Oregon Drug Intervention Plan is a key pillar of Senate Democrats' [Uniting Oregon Agenda](#), which aims to take on the drug crisis by reducing crime and increasing access to treatment. The bill now goes to the Governor's desk.

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