



Senate Majority Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2023

Press Contact:

Tess Seger, Tess.Seger@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Senate Votes to Crack Down on Dangerous Fentanyl

SALEM, Ore - Today, the Oregon Senate passed [House Bill 2645](#). This bipartisan bill gives law enforcement another tool to keep our communities safe by cracking down on possession of fentanyl.

Oregon currently does not charge for misdemeanor fentanyl possession like the law does for other controlled substances. HB 2645 closes this inconsistency by creating this Class A misdemeanor penalty for possession of certain amounts of fentanyl. This legislation will take fentanyl dealers off our streets and protect our communities from this dangerous drug.

“Oregonians know that fentanyl is an extremely dangerous drug, and we need all the tools in our toolbox to fight this epidemic. This legislation will save lives and keep our communities safe,” said **Senator Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene, Springfield)**, chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

“Oregonians deserve safe and healthy communities, and this bill will help law enforcement get deadly fentanyl off of our streets,” said **Senator Janeen Sollman (D-Hillsboro)**. “Fentanyl is ripping Oregon families apart. This fix is an important part of our holistic approach to ending the opioid epidemic in Oregon.”

[Fentanyl](#) is a newer and more dangerous drug. It is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. According to the [Oregon Health Authority](#), 1,275 people suffered from a deadly fentanyl overdose in Oregon in 2021.

Strengthening community safety and taking on addiction are key components of [Senate Democrats' 2023 Oregon Works agenda](#).

HB 2645 is one of the hundreds of bills that Senate Democrats rescued by negotiating an end to the Senate Republican walkout. Thanks to Senate Democrats showing up, doing their jobs, and delivering results for the people of Oregon, HB 2645 now moves to the Governor's desk for consideration.

###