



PRESS RELEASE

REP. JENNIFER WILLIAMSON
SEN. FLOYD PROZANSKI

For Immediate Release
June 5, 2019

For More Information, Contact:
Aaron Fiedler: 503-986-1904
aaron.fiedler@oregonlegislature.gov

House and Senate Judiciary Chairs Announce Plan to Address Problem at State Hospital

SALEM – Rep. Jennifer Williamson (D-Portland), Oregon House Majority Leader and chair of the House Committee on Judiciary, and Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), chair of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, issued the following joint statement on a plan to address ongoing issues at the Oregon State Hospital.

“The current situation at the Oregon State Hospital is absolutely unacceptable. Failure to properly address this issue has led the state to a perilous point.

“[Senate Bill 24](#), which passed off the House floor yesterday, was an attempt address the very issues highlighted by Judge Bailey’s contempt ruling. In order to strengthen that legislation, when it goes back to the Oregon Senate for concurrence, we will go to conference committee and amend in language that will significantly restrict the ability of individuals who go through municipal courts or are charged with misdemeanors to be sent to the state hospital.

“We will also continue to advocate to fund the vital community mental health programs that prevent courts from having to send individuals to the state hospital unnecessarily. Jails cannot be a safety net.”

###