



*from the*  
**OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**For Immediate Release**

Date: February 12, 2024

Contact: Nicholas Poche

Email: [Nicholas.Poche@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Poche@oregonlegislature.gov)

**In a stunning display of hypocrisy, Oregon’s majority party reveals they care more about public safety on buses than in your neighborhood.**

**SALEM, Ore** – In response to TriMet’s endorsement of a Senate Bill 1553, which would make the use of drugs on public transportation a Class A Misdemeanor, House **Republican Leader Jeff Helfrich (R-Hood River)** issued the following statement:

“We’ve been told for months by the majority party and their special interest bosses that a Class A Misdemeanor was too harsh, but this bill puts their hypocrisy on full display. Public transportation deserves Class A protections, but our neighborhoods and streets don’t?” asked **Helfrich**, a retired Portland police sergeant. “It doesn’t make sense - if someone is using drugs at a bus stop it’s fine, but if they get on the bus it’s crossed the line? If a Class A is good enough for buses, its good enough for our neighborhoods and streets.”

###