



FROM THE OFFICES OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE OREGON SENATE
&
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**Treatment, Housing, Prevention, Safety Investments Prioritized by
Oregon Drug Intervention Plan**

Proposed budgets will address root causes of addiction, gaps in public safety system

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means unanimously passed wide-reaching investments that will address the root causes of addiction in Oregon and fill gaps in the public safety system. [House Bill 5204](#), the budget companion bill to House Bill 4002 and a key component of the Oregon Drug Intervention Plan, invests \$211 million in addressing the drug crisis. It prioritizes 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.

The bill now moves to the floor of the Oregon House of Representatives.

HB 5204 will work in concert with the [Emergency Housing Stabilization and Production Package](#), which invests \$376 million to spur housing production, house people currently living on the streets and keep Oregonians in their homes, including **\$18 million for 27 recovery housing projects**.

“These proposals prioritize the treatment, housing, and prevention initiatives that are needed to truly make progress in solving the drug crisis in our state,” said **Rep. Tawna Sanchez**

(D-Portland), co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “This is a problem that’s been decades in the making and these investments will go directly to communities that need it now but we need to do more in the future.”

“This is a smart set of investments that will make a huge difference in communities across the state of Oregon. Our strategy will direct funds to projects that can get up and running fast to serve communities with the highest needs,” said **Sen. Elizabeth Steiner (D-Portland)**, co-chair of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. “We’re also going to be making critical strides on prevention, which, in my mind, is one of the most important things we can do to keep people safe and save lives in our state.”

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)
- 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)

A summary of investments can be found [here](#).

“Working in the behavioral health system is difficult, and we must protect and expand this critical workforce. Having the right safety protocols, appropriate staffing levels, and training requires a training pipeline, additional funding, and carefully understanding our current system,” said **Sen. Chris Gorsek (D-Gresham)**, co-chief sponsor of [Senate Bill 1594](#), a \$4.8 million proposal that was absorbed into this proposal. The resources will go to the United We Heal Medicaid Payment Program which enables behavioral health care employers to offer apprenticeships and training programs. They will also create a task force to examine Oregon's

current behavioral health workforce, including assessing the barriers people experience getting into the workforce and looking into safety issues faced by behavioral health workers.

“Providing much needed resources to programs and organizations that help families and youth is critical if we are going to help stave off a future increase in addiction and mental health issues,” said **Rep. Charlie Conrad (R-Eastern Lane County)** “That begins with addressing the needs of people who are most vulnerable and at highest risk for developing behavioral health disorders through Relief Nurseries and the Nurse Family Partnership. Funding provided to smaller rural and frontier counties helps them better serve their populations. This is an Oregon crisis, and this legislation recognizes that fact by helping people throughout the state.”

“Increasing treatment access for people in custody in Oregon will help them to stabilize and connect with continuing treatment when they leave the facility. We need to give our jails the resources needed to provide medically appropriate and compassionate treatment to help incarcerated individuals on a path toward recovery,” said **Rep. Pam Marsh (D-Southern Jackson County)**, a chief sponsor of HB 4120 which was absorbed into this proposal that would help people in custody struggling with opioid addiction by establishing the Oregon Jail-Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Program in the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

“Behavioral health workforce shortages have cascading impacts on Oregonians. We need to enhance our training infrastructure in Oregon to fill the needs right now in our state.” said **Sen. Jeff Golden (D-Ashland)**, co-chief sponsor of [Senate Bill 1592](#), which was absorbed into this proposal and dedicates \$4 million for more mental health provider training programs to Oregon making it easier for providers to get trained and provide care in Oregon.

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