

Washington, DC - Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) announced today that the House of Representatives has approved legislation giving priority designation to a methamphetamine prevention program in Clackamas County. Blumenauer requested congressional support for the project earlier this year.

“The Clackamas County Methamphetamine Initiative will help combat serious health and safety problems affecting Oregonians,” said Blumenauer. “This program is an ideal Oregon solution, bringing together a unique combination of community leaders and law enforcement groups to tackle the methamphetamine problems in Clackamas County.”

Priority designation was given to the Clackamas County Methamphetamine Initiative, Community Prosecution Program as part of a larger bill funding U.S. Department of Justice Programs. A specific funding level will be included for the program later in the legislative process. The funding will be used to implement the Methamphetamine Action Plan developed by the Clackamas County Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (CC-MET). The CC-MET is made up of representatives from the Clackamas County District Attorney, Sheriff, Community Corrections, Juvenile Department, Code Enforcement, School District and Social Services offices. The goal of this broad coalition is to implement proactive community policing, create a community court, work with local schools to identify at-risk youth and promote public awareness and training to reduce the number of drug houses and combat methamphetamine abuse in Overland Park and Mt. Hood areas of north Clackamas County. Methamphetamine use is one of the most serious crime threats in the State of Oregon. In 2001 over half of all drug convictions involved Methamphetamine. Additionally, over a third of all males arrested in Portland last year had used the drug.

Priority designation for the program was included in H.R. 4754, the Fiscal Year 2005 Department of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, which passed the House yesterday evening. The legislation must now be approved by the U.S. Senate. Congress must complete action on the bill by September, 30th of this year.