



February 3, 2021

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners
Policy Position
Veterans Treatment Courts**

The Board of County Commissioners supports legislation that will establish and fund Veterans Treatment Courts.

Treatment courts have proven over the years to be very successful in diverting people from the criminal justice system and reducing criminal activity. A criminal conviction can have negative, life-long impacts to a person's housing stability and employment opportunities. This negative impact is only amplified by the additional challenges faced by our veterans.

Veterans Courts are active in Oregon and across the nation. A properly funded Veterans Court includes the support services necessary to meet the underlying needs of the veteran. Veterans Courts are especially effective when mental health and substance use disorders are the underlying cause for criminal behavior.

We urge a "YES" vote to establish and fund Veterans Treatment Courts.

Please contact Chris Lyons at clyons@clackamas.us for more information.