



**Testimony in Support of SB52  
Require Oregon School Districts to Have a Student Suicide Prevention Plan**

Dear Chair Doherty, Vice-Chair Alonso Leon, Vice Chair Helt and members of the committee:

I am writing as the Chair of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide to urge your support of SB 52.

The Alliance was an outgrowth of the 5-year Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan. Our members are survivors of suicide, subject matter experts, public and private sector leaders and legislators. We are charged with monitoring and coordinating the implementation of the YSIPP. SB 52 directly relates to the YSIPP which states, "The Oregon Department of Education will collaborate with schools to identify gaps and opportunities for staff training and protocol development on suicide prevention and postvention."

In 2018, the University of Oregon surveyed Oregon's K-12 schools and found a quarter of schools responding have no protocol at all and more than a third rated themselves uncomfortable with how to address suicide. The problem is perhaps most pronounced in frontier schools where 78% of the schools reported having no suicide prevention programming in place. One of the outcomes of the survey that gives the Alliance hope is that the survey showed schools want additional resources. Nearly 90% said they would like more information and support.

These findings have provided us with a critical glimpse into the landscape of suicide prevention in Oregon public schools. Still, it should be noted that 70% of schools did not report their suicide prevention activities, which leaves us with the question: How are these schools addressing suicide?

Adi's Act will help address this gap by requiring all school districts in Oregon have a model suicide prevention plan and ODE to help them get this in place. These plans will address policy and protocols related to suicide prevention, intervention and postvention, and address populations at higher risk for youth suicide—like LGBTQ students.

With your support in passing SB 52, along with important legislation around funding the Youth Suicide Prevention Plan that has been proposed this session, we can begin to move from an ever-increasing number of youth suicides to our ultimate goal of zero suicides in Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel S. Washburn".