



Testimony in support of SB 52A
School Suicide Prevention Policy

April 22, 2019

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of House Committee on Education,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), I would like to express our support for SB 52. Implementing school district policies on suicide prevention statewide, as is the practice in almost all other states currently, is part of a multi-faceted set of solutions to prevent suicides by intervening early to reduce risk. This bill will also ensure school officials are designated responsible parties in implementing and communicating the policy to staff and the community as well as responding to reports of suicidal risk.

Community mental health programs are representatives of the local behavioral health system and stand ready to collaborate with school districts to help successfully implement this suicide prevention policy in their communities.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP