



## **Oregon PTA supports passage of SB 52 A “Adi’s Act” April 22, 2019**

To: Chair Doherty and members of the House Education Committee

Oregon PTA is a state wide advocacy group with an over 100 year history of advocating for children and youth. PTA volunteers are in our Oregon schools helping every day. In our volunteer role of supporting students and their families we know the growing concern about teen suicide and self-harm.

We know from the testimony heard by the Joint Committee on Student Success (JCSS) over the past year that suicide and the social pressures which can lead a student to suicide and other self-harm has grown in Oregon. This is true for communities big and small, rural and urban. Our students need our help and with policies like Adi’s Act we can make progress in supporting our students, children and youth.

As we heard in the *Healthy Teen Survey*, the *Oregon Task Force on School Safety* our children are at risk for suicide from a variety of causes both from home, community and school. Heartbreaking stories of children who have died by suicide are too common and too familiar. We need the open conversation about suicide and how we can prevent it and deal with its aftermath built into Adi’s Act.

In our PTAs across Oregon we have seen and felt what happens when a young person dies by suicide. The impact to the community is deep and long lasting. It is critical the community shares the work to prevent suicide and build strength and support for all our students. Our PTA volunteers are prepared to help with this work; some are already doing it because of their own experiences with suicide.

We agree that more is needed for our school counselors, health care providers and staff. Professional development and creation of strong systems of support are needed now. Developing clear lines of communication and responses to indicators of possible suicide is critical. Adi’s Act supports that work.

As we grow in our understanding of our students’ needs and opportunities to help we will stem the terrible tide of student suicide.

## **Oregon PTA urges your YES vote on SB 52 A “Adi’s Act”**

<https://ptaourchildren.org/suicide-prevention/>

*How to Address Suicide Prevention with Your Children* Wellness November 2, 2018

<https://capta.org/focus-areas/community-concerns/suicide-prevention/>

**CA PTA “suicide prevention”**