



Department of Health & Human Services  
Mental Health Program  
155 N. First Ave., Suite 250, MS 70  
Hillsboro, OR 97124-3072

DATE: February 4, 2013

TO: The Honorable Mitch Greenlick, Chair  
House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Amy G. Baker, LCSW  
Suicide Prevention Coordinator  
Washington County Mental Health

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2092, Injury Prevention Program Bill

Chair Greenlick and members of the committee, my name is Amy G. Baker.

I am writing to encourage you to support HB 2092, which would require OHA's Public Health Division to establish and administer an injury and violence prevention program.

This bill would establish clear authority for the OHA to conduct population-based activities to reduce injury and violence, and conduct activities with partners throughout the state to reduce injuries due to accidents, suicide, homicide, and poisoning. Currently, OHA has regulatory authority to collect data on diseases. Extending that authority to cover injury is a logical next step.

Injury is the third leading cause of death in Oregon, behind only cancer and heart disease. It is also among the leading causes of hospitalization. It is typical to consider some causes of death – cancer, heart disease, stroke – as mainly affecting older Oregonians. However, everyone is affected by injury, regardless of age, sex, or race. The good news is that injury is predictable and in many cases preventable.

The Injury and Violence Prevention Program is the primary resource in Oregon for state injury data. Staff routinely provides epidemiologic expertise, data, and technical assistance to individuals, agencies, policy makers, and other partners outside the program. Surveillance data have been used to determine the burden of injury in Oregon; to assess the impact of policy implementation; provide analysis to prevention partners; to publish reports and research; evaluate injury outcomes and assess policy implications; provide information to the news media; and to guide policy initiatives.

IVPP collaborates with groups, organizations and agencies engaged in trauma and acute care, emergency medical services, chronic disease prevention, environmental health and the built environment, maternal and child health, school health, traffic safety, law enforcement, victim's services, and occupational safety to implement programs and policies aimed at reducing the burden of injury in Oregon.

Our organization has partnered with IVPP on implementation of the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Grant 2010-2012 and ongoing support for suicide prevention efforts in Washington County. The IVPP has been instrumental in providing technical assistance and support for our efforts to implement a best practice suicide prevention, intervention and postvention model at all seven school districts in Washington County. With the knowledge and expertise at the IVPP we have provided joint trainings to school staff and others, implemented numerous "gatekeeper" trainings (ASIST: Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) to educators and other youth serving agencies, and assisted school districts in adopting RESPONSE, a comprehensive suicide prevention program in high schools across Washington County.

The success of these programs has only highlighted the need to expand our efforts beyond youth suicide with programming to support early identification and intervention to prevent suicide and violence across the lifespan. The IVPP has been instrumental in our success in Washington County and there is clear need to have ongoing funding and support for programs which will help us achieve comprehensive suicide and violence prevention and intervention programs in Washington County.

I hope that you will support this bill.