



HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department of Health Policy and Management

February 4, 2013

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

From: Catherine Barber, Harvard Injury Control Research Center

Re: HB2092, An act requiring Oregon Health Authority to establish and administer an injury and violence prevention program

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Barber".

The Oregon Health Authority's Public Health Division has been a leader in the nation in collecting data on injuries that harm its state's population and using that data to inform prevention programs and guide policy. The work is important because injury is a leading cause of death among Oregonians ages 1-44. Deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes, overdoses, suicides, assaults, and falls among the elderly are a major health burden in Oregon.

Public Health staff has significant expertise in collecting data that enables it to better tackle the problem. For example, the data that PHD collects on suicide informed them that many older suicide victims had recently visited a primary care provider; they used the information, and information on the types of problems the elders were experiencing, to educate primary care providers about screening for suicide among older patients. The information they glean from Child Death Reviews has informed their efforts to promote safe sleeping for infants and to reduce unexpected infant deaths.

The PHD's Violence and Injury Prevention Program staff are accomplished professionals who are well aware of the importance of protecting the confidentiality of the individual-level data they collect.

PHD currently has regulatory authority to routinely collect data on diseases. Extending that authority to collecting data on injury is a logical next step.

I urge you to support this bill.