



10117 SE Sunnyside RD, Suite F-408  
Clackamas, OR 97105

May 11, 2015

Chair Greenlick  
Members of the House Committee on Health Care  
Oregon State Legislature

Re: Support of SB 561

Chair Greenlick, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to share our support with SB 561, relating to notification and communication in the suspected death by suicide of people younger than 24 years of age.

One in Four Chronic Health understands the importance of mental health treatment and access, including acute crisis response and suicide prevention.

Unfortunately, sometimes we are not always effective in preventing every person who attempts to end their life. When the person is younger, under 24, the notification of biological and extended families, friends, class mates and partners is unique different from the death by suicide of a person older than 24.

I personally experienced this when the young daughter of a friend chose to end her life. Her family was made up of biological children, foster children and complicated by the parents divorcing. What should have been a time for support and grieving became instead a scum, involving attorneys for the hospital and the family. All my friend wanted was to see and hold her child.

Our hope is that this bill will pass and be able to offer some comfort to the loved ones who have lost young people to suicide.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this issue. We are very willing to continue these conversations around access and the cost of medication. Please feel free to contact me at [BJ@1-in-4.org](mailto:BJ@1-in-4.org).

Regards,

BJ Cavnor  
Executive Director