



To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Sheriff Craig Roberts, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
Oregon Task Force on School Safety

Date: April 12, 2017

Re: Support for HB 2812 with Adoption of Dash-2 Amendment

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee, for the record, I am Craig Roberts, Clackamas County Sheriff and I am here today on behalf of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety to support adoption of the dash-2 amendments to HB 2812. As you probably know, the task force was established by HB 4087 by the 77th Legislative Assembly. Membership of the task force includes a wide range of education and public safety stakeholders. We are privileged to have Chair Barker as a member of the task force and we appreciate his efforts to identify a vehicle for this proposal after we discovered that we needed one.

The dash-2 amendments to HB 2812 replace the bill with language designed to implement the second of four task force recommendations. The first recommendation, establishment of a statewide tip line, was approved by the legislature last session. Today, we are hopeful that you will move forward the second recommendation of the task force by adopting the dash-2 amendment. This recommendation directs the Department of Education to create statewide regional School Safety Multi-disciplinary Assessment Teams to support school personnel as they address suicidal behavior for the purposes of prevention and situations concerning students engaged in violence, or posing a threat of violence to others.

This multidisciplinary team approach is a best practice that is already operational in some school districts in Oregon. These teams insure that the wide range of resources and expertise are available in order to provide services and programs to these juveniles. In order to insure that the Oregon Task Force on School Safety has all the expertise necessary to address the concerning increase in juvenile suicide, the dash-2 amendment adds a member to the task force representing the Oregon Health Authority, Suicide Intervention Program.

The work involved in creating this statewide multidisciplinary system does have a fiscal impact to the Department of Education and as such, will require the bill to be referred to the Ways and Means Committee. We understand that this important initiative takes its place alongside a number of other good programs that are accumulating in the Ways and Means Committee for funding consideration. We also understand the budget challenge that Oregon faces during this session and we appreciate your willingness to consider sending this valuable program to Ways and Means.

Thank you for your consideration

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