



Testimony in support of HB 2526 – Firearm safety and suicide prevention education

April 17, 2017

Dear Chair Barker and Members of House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP) I would like to express our support for HB 2526, for the purpose of establishing a firearm safety and suicide prevention education program for gun dealers and purchasers. Given that suicide is the second leading cause of death for age groups 10-24 and 25-34 in Oregon, we must engage in many different strategies to deter this trend. Educating gun dealers and purchasers is one way to prevent tragedies with simple preventive measures.

I also am testifying in my role as facilitator for the Suicide Prevention Alliance, a statewide stakeholder group directed to develop a suicide prevention public policy agenda and to make recommendations to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for adoption of these policies. Our Workforce Development committee has prioritized researching education programs from other states and assisting OHA in drafting educational materials that are appropriate for gun dealers and purchasers in Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2526 to curb tragic incidents of suicide, homicide and accidental death by firearms.

Sincerely,

Cherryl L. Ramirez

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Director, AOCMHP