



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: April 14, 2017
TO: House Committee on Judiciary
RE: HB 2526, relating to firearm educational materials

Dear Chairman Barker and members of the Committee:

Lane County has reviewed HB 2526 and offers our support of this measure. We have reviewed the -4 amendment and find it to improve the bill. We urge the Committee to vote in favor of this measure with the -4 amendment and make a DO PASS recommendation.

Suicide prevention is something that Lane County's Health and Human Services is focusing on. More than one person dies from suicide in Oregon in Lane County every week. Strategies to prevent suicide are included in the Lane County 2016-2019 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as our Public Health staff is aware that the suicide rate in Lane County continues to trend upwards. HB 2526 is one tool we believe could help turn that trend downwards.

As you know, in preparing a Community Health Improvement Plan, a Community Health Needs Assessment is the first part of that process. Lane County's coalition that worked on these documents found that gun related deaths in youth are higher in Lane County than in Oregon overall. Again, we find that HB 2526 is a tool that could help turn that statistic in a different direction.

The -4 amendments to the bill remove even a hint of a requirement for a gun dealer to provide these materials. It is completely voluntary for each individual dealer. If nothing else, HB 2526 is a conversation starter between public health professionals and gun dealers, and ultimately, between family members and friends that will be worthwhile every time a life is impacted by the presence of documents that point a person to resources which exist in their communities.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY