

**Biographies of Dave Novotney, John Van Dreal, Lt. Dave Okada
Testimony in Support of SB 414
Before Members of the Senate Committee on Education
February 16, 2017**

Dave Novotney, Ph.D., Superintendent, Willamette Education Service District has served as Superintendent of the Willamette Education Service District since July 1, 2012. In his role as Superintendent, Dave oversees a multi-faceted agency with a \$117 million budget and a workforce of over 435 highly skilled and caring professionals. The primary mission of the agency is to support the 21 school districts in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties and to promote and foster the success and achievement of all students in the three-county region (over 84,000 students).

The Willamette ESD administers numerous state grants and contracts to support education in the region and provides approximately 45 services related to Special Education, Technology, School Improvement and Administrative Services that school districts may purchase from the agency. Of note, the Willamette ESD provides student threat assessment services to 18 school districts in the region utilizing the threat assessment system developed by the Salem Keizer School District.

Dave has over thirty years of experience in education and school administration. He is currently the President-Elect of the Oregon Association of Education Service Districts and serves on numerous local boards and committees. He also serves as the Co-Chair of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety where he promotes student threat assessment as a best practice and actively advocates for the development of a statewide student threat assessment system to support all Oregon schools.

Dave received his Ph.D. in Education from Oregon State University; a M.S. in Education and History from Western Oregon University; a M.Ed. in Secondary School Administration from The College of Idaho; and a B.A. in Physical Education and Social Studies from Willamette University.

Dave began his career as a high school teacher and coach. He worked as an assistant principal, high school principal and school superintendent before coming to the Willamette ESD.

John Van Deal is a school psychologist and the Director of Safety and Risk Management Services for the Salem-Keizer School District. He has 30 years of experience in psycho-educational evaluation, crisis assessment and intervention, behavioral intervention, and systems consultation. In 1999, he began the development and implementation of the Salem-Keizer Model, a multi-agency student threat assessment system. Through that collaboration, he has worked daily with educators, law enforcement, trial court personnel, juvenile justice, and

mental health personnel in the assessment and management of youth and adult threats of aggression within the schools, institutions and the community. He served as Chair of Oregon's Mid-Valley Student Threat Assessment Team for 16 years and is a member of the Marion County Threat Advisory Team. He is the editor and principal author of the book *Assessing Student Threats: A Handbook for Implementing the Salem-Keizer System*. He regularly provides training and consultation on threat assessment systems, human violence, and options-based, crisis response decision making to regional and national audiences.

David Okada, Lieutenant, Salem Police Department is a recognized expert in the field of threat assessment. He has done consulting, training and debriefing on threat assessment issues around the nation and is highly regarded as a trainer in the field. He has been working in threat assessment since 2000 and is currently the facilitator of the well-known Willamette Valley Adult Threat Advisory Team located in Salem, Oregon and also a member of the Mid-Valley Student Threat Assessment Team. Lt Okada has served on the National Board of Directors of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP) since 2007 and received the 2009 ATAP Presidential Recognition Award at the national Threat Management Conference. Lt. Okada is a co-author of *Assessing Student Threats*. Over the years, he has received numerous awards and honors for his work in law enforcement.

Lt. Okada has served in law enforcement for over 30 years and has a wide variety of experiences ranging from homicide investigations to gang investigations to criminal intelligence to narcotics investigations. He has commanded a HIDTA interagency task force and served on many multi-agency teams and task forces. Lt. Okada graduated Cum Laude from Willamette University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute Homicide Investigator Course, the FBI National Academy, DEA Drug Unit Commander Academy and Oregon Executive Development Institute. Lt. Okada holds numerous state certifications including the Executive Certification through the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.