

Dear Oregon Legislature and Sen. Baertschiger, Re. Stark, and Rep. Wilson,

I am a long-time resident of Grants Pass and I have spent my professional career in suicide prevention. I have traveled to 23 states and 10 countries and US Territories, and spent countless months with every branch of the US military, training in suicide prevention. I have participated in every suicide prevention effort the State of Oregon has promoted, and am recent past Chair of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide.

Oregon is one of the few states in the US that does not have a comprehensive suicide prevention plan across the life span, yet we suffer some of the highest suicide rates in the country. Rural suicide rates are higher than state averages. Agencies such as mine, and many others across the state, work hard to do what they can.

Your support of HB 2667 will help harness this energy and lend structure and authority to our collective efforts. Please vote for HB 2667 to create a suicide prevention plan for adults.

Best regards,

Gary McConahay PhD

Gary McConahay PhD, Clinical Director
Director, Center for Suicide Prevention
ColumbiaCare Services, Inc.
3587 Heathrow Way
Medford, OR 97504
Office: 541-858-8170
Fax: 541-858-8167
www.columbiacare.org