



OREGON PSYCHIATRIC
PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION



Oregon Council of
Child & Adolescent
Psychiatry

Date: March 5, 2019

To: The Honorable Sara Gelser, Chair
The Honorable Dallas Heard, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Human Services Committee

From: Ajit Jetmalani, MD
Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association

RE: Position statement on SB 707 Youth Suicide Prevention
Advisory Committee

Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Heard and members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

The Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA) and the Oregon Council of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry support SB 707, which establishes a 17-member Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee to the Oregon Health Authority. We also support amendments to add a psychiatrist and a psychologist to the membership of the advisory committee.

Oregon's disturbingly high and persistent rates of youth suicide and suicide attempts have called for comprehensive action for years. Child psychiatrists in particular, have played a very active role in Oregon's suicide prevention efforts, dating back to 1996, when members were involved with the Governor's Task Force on Suicide Prevention. Over the last two decades, suicide prevention has been a priority effort. In recent years, member have served on committees to develop Oregon's Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan, first published in 2015 and worked with the Oregon Pediatric Society to develop START programs to help pediatri-

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cians address their patients' struggle with depression, substance abuse and suicide. We actively supported legislative efforts to clarify HIPAA rules to encourage involvement of family or other supportive individuals in the lives of people in mental health crises and to pass HB 3090 and 3091 last session which defined the basic elements of good care (and payment requirements) for evaluation and support of people discharged from Emergency rooms following stabilization of a mental health crises. OCCAP will continue to serve on the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide, a multi-disciplinary, statewide effort to improve connections of groups working to prevent suicide.

Members of our organizations are standing by to help by contributing to committees that develop effective practices and policies related to this bill. We feel reassured that as we serve families and youth in need of specialty mental health care it will be in partnership with many others.