



April 22, 2019

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Oregon Task Force on School Safety we write in strong support of SB 52 A – Adi’s Act – that will require school districts to adopt a policy requiring a comprehensive plan on student suicide prevention.

Our school safety Task Force is comprised of 16 policy makers from the Governor’s Office, Legislature, education, law enforcement, fire and rescue, and public mental health. In existence since 2014, our members work collaboratively to research and seek informed school safety strategies, learn what is happening in other states and share collective expertise in support of making key recommendations to the Oregon Legislature to improve school safety statewide.

In this Legislative Session, the Task Force proposes creation of a statewide School Safety and Prevention System within the Oregon Department of Education to address 3 critical areas: youth suicide prevention and wellness promotion, bullying and harassment prevention, and preventing or mitigating threats of violence (SB 584/HB 2327).

Equipping schools with technical assistance and training that supports early identification and intervention strategies for students at risk of suicide and self-harm is a critical piece of our bicameral legislation to create a Statewide School Safety and Prevention System. ***The first step in this comprehensive approach is to ensure that all school districts have a student suicide prevention plan based on national best practices.***

We are united in Oregon’s movement to help all young people embrace life. The Oregon Task Force on School Safety unanimously supports SB 52 A (Adi’s Act) as an important next step.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support for this proposed legislation.

Sheriff Craig Roberts, Chair
Oregon Task Force on School Safety
Representing, OSSA

Dr. Dave Novotney, Vice-chair
Oregon Task Force on School Safety
Representing, OAESD

OTFSS online: www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Task-Force-on-School-Safety.aspx

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