



To: House Committee on Education

From: Jared Mason-Gere, Oregon Education Association

RE: Support for SB 52

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee:

The Oregon Education Association, representing 45,000 professional educators across the state, urges your support for SB 52.

In schools in every district in our state, suicide and attempted suicide are reaching epidemic levels. Educators are reporting suicides and suicidal ideation among students even in the lowest levels of elementary school. Suicide attempts have become so prevalent that some have even occurred on school grounds, during school hours.

School personnel currently lack the training and other resources to respond to this epidemic. There are a number of additional resources that schools need in order to properly meet the needs of students wrestling with mental health challenges and the impacts of cyberbullying. Schools lack, in particular, the training and resources needed to respond to the needs of LGBTQ students.

SB 52 is an important first step in responding to this crisis. We urge your support.