



Testimony SB66- Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

March 2, 2021

Dear Chair Gelser, Vice Chair Anderson and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony in support of **SB66** on behalf of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide. **SB66** builds on Oregon’s pioneering legislation (SB 561, SB495, SB918) which outline protocols for cross-system communication and reporting after the suicide of a youth 24-years and younger. **SB66** clarifies the reporting mechanisms between medical examiners and local community mental health programs, and how to report and respond to a suicide death that occurs outside the county where the young person lives.

With passage of this bill, our data will be more accurate. More importantly, postvention planning and timely, accurate information support a coordinated and sensitive community response to the tragedy of a youth suicide. These planful postvention strategies are known to decrease the chance of contagion and promote healing.

The Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide advises the Oregon Health Authority on implementation and development of the statewide Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan. Its 48 members are appointed by the director of OHA and include leaders from the public and private sectors, legislators, subject matter experts, suicide attempt and loss survivors, and young people from across the state of Oregon.

We urge you to vote in favor of **SB66**.

On behalf of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide,

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Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide

Vision : In Oregon all young people have hope, feel safe asking for help, can find access to the *right* help at the *right* time to prevent suicide, and live in communities that foster healing, connection, and wellness.

Mission : The Alliance advocates and works to inform and strengthen Oregon’s suicide prevention, intervention and postvention policies, services and supports to prevent youth and young adults from dying by suicide.