



## Testimony in support of HB 3037 – Youth Suicide Communication

February 22, 2021

Dear Chair Sanchez and Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee,

On behalf of the Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs (AOCMHP), representing all CMHPs across Oregon, I am writing in support of HB 3037 to require medical examiners to participate in reporting this information within 48 or 72 hours, depending on the size of the county. Furthermore, we support enabling the local mental health authority of a county in which the suicide took place to report this information to any county in which the individual had significant contacts within 7 days of the death.

CMHPs are delegated by local mental health authorities to report youth suicides to the Oregon Health Authority and we had experienced inconsistencies and confusion across the state concerning these two areas in the past. This bill will establish a statewide suicide postvention protocol to assure consistency among counties in communication practices between key stakeholders.

We agree with these measures to extend youth suicide reporting responsibilities in order to improve the timeliness of reporting and the effectiveness of postvention efforts in communities, and to prevent contagion among the youth's friends and other loved ones.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3037.

Sincerely,

*Cherryl L. Ramirez*

Cherryl L. Ramirez  
Executive Director, AOCMHP