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On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2757

988 Testimony Dr Steven and Jean Carlton

The 988 concept represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to effectively review and redesign how crisis services are accessed, delivered and funded in communities across the country and here in Oregon

Through 988 services, people in crisis get the community-based care they need. They don't wait for care in emergency departments or jail or even unintended fatal interventions. This effort is a critically important and promising advancement in helping people get access to urgent mental health care, especially one that focuses exclusively on suicide prevention. Suicide remains a leading cause of death in the United States and claimed the lives of almost 46,000 Americans in 2020 alone – that's one every 11 minutes. In 2020, there were an estimated 1.20 million suicide attempts.¹

Suicide and suicide attempts cause painful and far reaching emotional and physical impacts that are difficult to even measure but are profound. The financial toll of suicide on society is extremely costly. In 2019, suicide and nonfatal self-harm cost the nation nearly \$490 billion in medical costs, work loss costs, value of statistical life, and quality of life costs.²

For Oregonians, the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show:

In 2020, Oregon had the 13th highest rate of suicide in the United States with a total of 833 deaths. The Oregon rate of suicide has stayed well above the national rate since 2000.

In Oregon, suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth aged 5-24. It will be catastrophic however if 988 doesn't work the way it needs to. It will take all partners in the medical and policy community to work together to make this a success, so that we can make meaningful advances in reversing what has been a tragically ongoing crisis. We have a chance in Oregon to be an effective partner in saving lives and injury with this bill.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Data & Statistics Fatal Injury Report for 2020, retrieved February 17, 2022.

2. Peterson C, Miller GF, Barnett SB, Florence C. Economic Cost of Injury — United States, 2019. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:1655–1659. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7048a1>.