

Submitter: Kyle M
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB1503

I am writing today in opposition to this legislation. This bill is being labeled as a suicide prevention bill, but it is clearly obvious the goal is to further push the needle towards the gun control agenda as it seems firearms are the main focus if not the sole focal point of this task force.

I notice the mentions of supporting eastern and rural Oregon, however I must ask will there be representatives in this task force from those communities and will those representatives be respecting and advocates for the strong second amendment culture that exists within those communities? I see a lot of potential for this bill to create more distrust between the Urban cities of Portland and Eugene and the surrounding rural communities.

I think it's also key to point out the redundancy of such an agency as is. We already have State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP), both are convened by OHA and already look into issues such as suicide rates, mental and behaviour health access and barriers, etc.

Also expanding the suicide crisis hotline 988 and connecting it with Agristress which is a mental health hotline dedicated to those in forestry and in the agricultural business (industries prevalent in rural parts of the state).

It is the redundancy of this suicide task force along with the heavy presence of anti 2A groups that are causing many eyebrows to be raised about the true intentions of this task force. I think we can better utilise existing groups and resources rather than throwing another tax payer funded initiative into the mix.