

Testimony on SB 808

Oregon State Legislature
Senate Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Monnes Anderson, Vice Chair Linthicum, and members of the Committee:

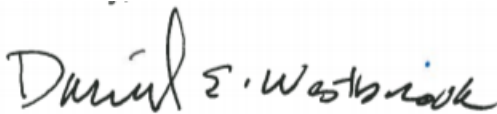
Lines for Life supports SB 808. Lines for Life's mission is to prevent substance and suicide and promote mental wellness. We do this in several ways. We operate 24/7 crisis lines including YouthLine, the Senior Loneliness Line, and the Oregon Suicide Prevention Line. We operate a rapid response team deployed when there's a youth suicide in a community, we do awareness trainings for students in schools, and we offer suicide intervention trainings.

The suicide problem in Oregon is nothing short of staggering. It is the second leading cause of death for young people 15 – 34. In 2017, the last year we have finalized data for, Oregon saw the highest number of suicides we have ever seen with 825 deaths.

SB 808 we'll further enhance the good work you did in 2017 by passing SB 48. That law requires boards of several professions to report to OHA on the number of licensees who have voluntarily taken continuing education in suicide prevention, intervention and treatment. SB 808 will require professionals including educators and mental health professionals to take continuing education around suicide prevention, intervention and treatment.

Please give SB 808 due consideration and vote in favor of it.

Sincerely,



David Westbrook, COO
Lines for Life