



April 22, 2019

Chair Doherty and Members of the House Education Committee,

Students across Oregon are facing significant social, emotional, and mental health problems that inhibit their ability to be successful academically. Many of these problems disproportionately impact LGBTQ+ identified youth. The Oregon Healthy Teens Survey outlines the severity of the challenges facing our young LGBTQ+ community, including startlingly high rates of bullying and suicidal ideations.

School administrators from all parts of Oregon identified addressing the social, emotional, and mental health challenges of our students as one of our top priorities for this legislative session. This will require a significant investment from the state, and we are optimistic about the work of the Joint Committee on Student Success on this subject. However, it will also take effective school district policy and procedures for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention. We believe Senate Bill 52 will help districts across the state craft effective policies and procedures that will ultimately lead to safer environments for all of our students.

Schools should be safe places for all students, regardless of their identity, to learn and grow. We have more work to do to ensure all of our students feel safe, welcome, and healthy at school. Senate Bill 52 is a strong step in the right direction.

The Confederation of Oregon School Administrators supports Senate 52, Adi's Act. We urge your support of this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Ben Bowman
Legislative Affairs Specialist
Confederation of Oregon School Administrators (COSA)