



May 14, 2019

TO: The Honorable Rep. Andrea Salinas, Chair,  
and members of the House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Julie Scholz, Executive Director  
Oregon Pediatric Society

SUBJECT: SB 707 which establishes a youth suicide intervention and  
prevention advisory committee

I represent the Oregon Pediatric Society (OPS) which is the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Our members are committed to improving the health and well-being of all Oregon children. We carry out our health equity mission through policy advocacy; quality improvement programs that support practice change; and the ongoing education of providers who serve children. We strongly support SB 707, which would put the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide in state statute.

It has been my privilege to be a member of the Alliance to Prevent Suicide since 2016, working with legislators, experts, the Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator from the Oregon Health Authority, other agency staff, and leaders from around the state to support Oregon's Youth Suicide and Prevention Plan (YSIPP). OPS is active in many behavioral health projects for children and adolescents. We could not do this work alone.

Preventing suicide requires multi-system, long-term, collaborative work. As you know, the Alliance is in the YSIPP, but not in statute. This bill will help ensure and support the collective impact needed in our state around suicide prevention.

I appreciate your consideration and hope you will pass SB 707. Please let me know if I can provide additional information.