

Dear Chair Sen. Gelser and Committee Members:

I am writing to express support of SB563 which "modifies laws relating to youth suicide intervention and prevention to include children 5 to 10 years of age." We have children in our state who have witnessed and/or suffered trauma, domestic violence, and loss which affects development in so many ways such as post traumatic response, emotional (dys)regulation, grief, delayed development, poor self image, and more. Tragically, a child in such difficult circumstances can end up feeling, (mis)interpreting and/or believing that they are somehow responsible, or that they are somehow the cause or source of "the problem," and other struggles that can lead to suicidality, behaviors, and sometimes even death. I believe this age group should be included in the work of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide and other efforts of our state.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Rose Misaras  
Consumer and Family Advocate