

DATE: March 9, 2021

TO: Representative Tawna Sanchez, Chair, Representative Moore-Green and Nosse, Vice Chairs and Members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health

FROM: Gordon Clay, Suicide Awareness and Prevention Activist, director of ZeroAttempts.org, P.O. Box 12, Brookings, OR 97415-0001 541-469-5124

SUBJECT: Support for HB 3139 - Requires parental disclosure when minor receives suicide risk assessment, intervention, treatment or support services.

I'm in general agreement with this bill except..

Need to Pass HB-2315 First

As shown in testimony on Monday for HB-2315, there are many licensed Behavioral Health Care workers, and especially MFCC and Psychiatrists, and a couple of their Associations, who were against having to have any suicidality training proposed by HB-48 and got the legislation watered down from "Required" to "Suggested" training. Results from those in the field who have actually chosen to take any continuing education in suicidality since the HB-48 passed, are dismal. HB-2315 must be passed before HB-3139 can safely be implemented.

The need to establish minimum suicidality training in order to acquire initial licenser in those fields covered by this legislation.

How does the clinician obtain those important skill-sets to make the decisions proposed in this legislation without adequate training?

And, how to protect students from these under-prepared professionals?

Many clinicians admit to having trouble maintaining equilibrium when working with a suicidal youth. Without adequate training on how to achieve skills in suicide risk assessment, treatment and management of a situation, endangers the youth who wanted mental health assistance without involving the parent or adult guardian, for whatever reason.

Safe guarding vulnerable youth from the decisions of untrained professionals

Until every professional included under this legislation has had adequate training, some safe guards must be in place in this legislation to protect those youth from informing the parent of proposed treatment without the youths consent.

Conclusion

I urge the members of this committee to address the language in this legislation so that it protects vulnerable youth from untrained clinicians who this legislation requires to implement HB-3139. Thank-you for your consideration.