



TO: The House Committee on Behavioral Health
FROM: Stephen Rodgers, LPC, LMFT, COPACT Secretary
DATE: February 13, 2021
SUBJECT: HB 2381

House Committee on Behavioral Health
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Vice Chairs Rep. Raquel Moore-Green and Rep. Rob Noose, and members of the committee:

My name is Stephen Rodgers. I am a Licensed Professional Counselor, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and the Secretary of the Coalition of Professional Associations for Counseling and Therapy. COPACT advocates for the 6,300 Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), Marriage Family Therapists (LMFTs), and Registered Interns who provide clinical mental health diagnosis and treatment to over 100,000 Oregonians each week through their work in agencies, universities, corrections, health clinics, rehabilitation, and private psychotherapy practices.

The Coalition of Oregon Professional Associations of Counselors and Therapists (COPACT) supports HB 2381.

Suicides by children 10 and under have tripled over the past decade. We know that suicidal thoughts have increased dramatically in all ages, but we are often shocked to hear about young children having those thoughts and those actions. It is our belief that those engaged with the mental health of children and their families should be given the resources necessary to help with the prevention of these events as well as resources to help those grappling with the aftermath.

Having a Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee will enhance the awareness of suicidality in the very young and we fully support this effort.

Sincerely,

On behalf of COPACT
Stephen Rodgers, LPC, LMFT
Secretary, COPACT