

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and Members of the Committee:

As a high school sophomore, I have seen the devastating effects of suicide and mental health issues among my peers. The reality is that youth today face a lot of pressure and stress, and it is essential that they have access to support and resources to help them through these challenges.

That's why I fully support HB 2643, which requires school districts to develop and implement individualized suicide prevention protection plans for students who demonstrate suicidal behavior. This bill acknowledges the importance of addressing the unique needs of each student, and ensuring that they receive the proper care and support to help them through difficult times.

The requirement for training for all school employees in preventing suicide is particularly important, as it means that every adult in the school will have the knowledge and skills to recognize and respond to warning signs of suicide. This will create a safer and more supportive environment for all students, and will help ensure that those who are struggling receive the help they need as soon as possible.

I also appreciate the fact that the bill directs the Oregon Health and Science University to convene a work group to examine ways to improve individualized suicide prevention protection plans and manage disruptive classroom environments during a behavioral or mental health crisis. This shows that the legislators understand that this is a complex issue and are committed to finding the best solutions to help youth in need.

In conclusion, I believe that HB 2643 is a crucial step in the right direction in addressing youth suicide and mental health in our schools. It will provide students with the support and resources they need to overcome difficult times and create a safer and more supportive environment for all. I urge this-

Committee to move this bill forward and take action to support the well-being of our youth.

Sincerely,

Devon Lawson-McCourt

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