

Dear Chair Patterson and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB 514. I applaud the OHA for establishing positions of suicide coordinator within the state. However, enshrining this position in statute would elevate its visibility and assure that it continues.

The National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)<sup>1</sup> is the best information we have on how many people in Oregon might be contemplating suicide. Based on reports from the individuals surveyed during 2017-2019 (the latest data we have) it was estimated that 191,000 Oregonians had serious thoughts of suicide within the past year. As a psychologist who has worked in both urban and rural parts of the state, I am aware of the depth of this challenge and the impact that suicide has on whole communities. Anything we can do to lessen this painful burden on our society is important.

Thank you for your service and your attention to this important issue.

Carol Greenough, Ph.D.

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32854/Oregon-BH-Barometer\\_Volume6.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt32854/Oregon-BH-Barometer_Volume6.pdf)