



To: Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden and members of the Senate Healthcare Committee
From: Annette Marcus, MSW, Suicide Prevention Policy Manager
Re: Support for SB514
Date: Feb. 14, 2023

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide (Alliance) to express our strong



The Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide is a statewide advisory group to the Oregon Health Authority. We are subject matter experts, state leaders, young adults, and suicide attempt and loss survivors from around the state. We work closely with local suicide prevention coalitions across the state. The role of the Alliance is to advise OHA on all matters related to youth and young adult suicide.

support for SB514. This bill mirrors the successful legislation enacted to support development of a coordinated Youth Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Plan (YSIPP) for youth ages 5 to 24; established a youth suicide coordinator at OHA; and required formation of an advisory group (Alliance) which has played a vital role in supporting and shaping the work of the YSIPP. Oregon needs to continue to lean into supporting vulnerable young people, failing to provide the same type of supports for adults is short sighted.

Oregon's suicide rate is 30% higher than the national average, according to CDC statistics, and as of 2021 suicide is the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 34, and 3rd leading cause of death for adults ages 35 – 44. We are also losing many older adults to suicide in communities across Oregon.

Last year, with leadership from OHA, 130 people came together to create a five-year Adult Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan. This plan will soon be published. In order to achieve its goals, the ASIPP will need both to be carefully coordinated and monitored. SB514 would establish an advisory council, with a membership of 20% lived experience, to monitor progress and provide guidance and feedback. Additionally, the bill ensures that the recently established Adult Suicide Prevention Coordinator position is embedded long-term in the infrastructure of OHA.

Suicide is preventable. We know with coordinated, cross-sector efforts we can help reduce obstacles, provide lifesaving education and connect people with needed resources so that they have the right help at the right time. By passing SB514, we can help the adult plan to live up to its promise it holds to reduce the number of Oregonians who die by suicide across the lifespan.

Please support passage of SB514.

For further information, contact: amarcus@aocmhp.org