

Submitter: Christine Mosbaugh
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB779

I am a Mental Health First Aid instructor who works with the Coast to Forest program at Oregon State University (<https://c2f.oregonstate.edu/>). One of my recent trainings included a group of Weyerhaeuser managers who had recently lost multiple coworkers to a series of substance use crises, despair, and ultimately, suicide. These were colleagues, but also family and friends in a tight knit community.

The training was well received and engaging, but the most important moment for me was that when we shared local community resources guides with them, and included cards and posters about the AgriStress Helpline. When told this was created with them in mind, with those they lost as reflections for this work, the room lit up and there was a buzz. The branding, the intent, and this resource was different. Many said this is something they WOULD call. I believed them.

To see a resource that understood the work of forestry, agriculture, fishing, and more, was unique (<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/agristress-helpline-oregon>). It surprised some of them. Most were outwardly grateful. The group of managers took materials and said they would share them with their staff on the floor in the mill the next day.

In this moment, I experienced the early impacts of a resource like AgriStress for the group it was intended to support. It was special and inspiring. I am confident this resource adds value and will save stress, heartache, and lives.

Please join me in seeing this value in this resource, funding this request, and bringing similar hope to additional groups and communities, through your support of SB 779.