

Submitter:	Matt McElligott
On Behalf Of:	Oregon Cattlemens Association
Committee:	Senate Committee On Early Childhood and Behavioral Health
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB779

OCA supports the passage of SB 779. This bill will ensure continued operations of the new Agri-stress helpline. This helpline has been operational for just 15 months yet has already helped 51 people deal with the stress and mental anguish associated with rural work and life issues. People in rural Oregon deal with the same issues as those living in urban areas, yet they often feel that there is nowhere to turn for help. Before this helpline, there was nowhere to turn for help. 51 people doesn't sound like a big deal, but what if one of them was your spouse, parent or child? When someone is suffering anxiety or depression there are typically no outward signs, not like a broken arm in a sling. A Helpline such as this has the opportunity to save many lives. Suicide affects not only those that commit it but many others in their community and families.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association urges the passage of SB 779.

Matt McElligott, OCA President