

Submitter: Julie Nowacki
On Behalf Of: A World Free of Suicide
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3643

As someone who has been advocating for youth since 2015 and is now the State Director of She Leads Oregon and Chair of Policy and Advocacy for A World Free of Suicide, I fully support the bill to designate October 9th as Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day. Oregon must recognize the critical need for mental health services, as the lack of support is contributing to a growing crisis among our youth. These young people are our future leaders, and it is essential that we prioritize their well-being. By establishing this day, we can help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health and create an environment where youth feel safe reaching out for help. This proactive approach can prevent tragedies and save lives before it's too late.

Thank you,
Julie