

Support for Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day in honor of Mikalynn Jayde Morris, who tragically lost her life to suicide. This initiative, led by her mother, Katie, is an essential step in raising awareness and preventing further loss among Oregon's youth.

According to the Oregon Health Authority, suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people under 24 in our state, and far too many families, like Katie's, have endured the devastating pain of losing a child. By designating a day focused on awareness, education, and prevention, we can break the stigma surrounding mental health struggles and ensure that young people know they are not alone.

Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day would encourage schools, families, and organizations to engage in open conversations, promote mental health education, and advocate for accessible crisis resources. It would send a powerful message that our community is committed to supporting its youth and preventing future tragedies.

I urge you to support this effort in honor of Mikalynn and all the young lives lost too soon. By taking this step, we can help create a future where every child knows they are valued, supported, and never without hope.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to the well-being of Oregon's youth and hope you will stand with us in making a difference.

Sincerely,

Courtney Godfrey