

Senator Bruce Starr Testimony

HB 3643 – Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day

Chair Jama, Vice Chair Bonham, and Members of Senate Rules:

Youth suicide is an unthinkable tragedy. I believe it's because of how unthinkable it is, that we have yet to designate a day for its awareness. I am very grateful to Rep. Lucetta Elmer for recognizing this need, and focusing on passing HB 3643.

Sadly, it took a local tragedy to really raise this need into the public consciousness. My heart goes out to the Morris family in McMinnville for their level of suffering that I can only imagine.

I believe a designated day, to remind us that children, teens and young adults face challenges and pressures we often overlook, will save lives. Our world looks much different, and is much faster-paced, than when many of us were going through the challenges of becoming an adult.