



from the desk of

REPRESENTATIVE LUCETTA ELMER

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House Passes Legislation Establishing Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day

Salem, Ore. – Today, **Representative Lucetta Elmer (R-McMinnville)**, announced the unanimous House passage of [House Bill 3643](#) which establishes October 9th as Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day.

“This is a bill born out of heartbreak— and out of hope. It speaks to one of the most devastating and urgent issues facing our state: the mental health crisis among our youth and the tragic rise in suicide,” **said Representative Elmer on the House Floor.** “Suicide is now the [second leading cause](#) of death for Oregonians ages 10 to 24. That’s not just a statistic—it’s a wake-up call.”

Nearly [one in five](#) high school students in Oregon has seriously considered suicide, and [thirty eight percent](#) of high school juniors have reported feeling so hopeless or sad that they stopped engaging in their usual activities. In 2022 alone, [109 young people](#) in Oregon died by suicide. Oregon [now has](#) the 12th highest youth suicide rate in the nation.

“Oregon Youth Suicide Awareness Day will serve as an annual opportunity to educate our communities, recognize warning signs, reduce stigma, and connect young people to professional mental health support. It will foster compassion, open life-saving conversations, and strengthen early intervention before it’s too late,” **said Representative Elmer on the House Floor.** “Most importantly, it will say to every young person in Oregon: You matter. You are not alone. Your life is worth fighting for.”

[House Bill 3643](#) will now be referred to the Senate for further consideration.

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