



Preventing Substance Abuse & Suicide

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOUTH TOWN HALL IN WOODBURN TO ADDRESS SOLUTIONS FOR YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION

YouthLine at Lines for Life together with Youth ERA, and Senator Peter Courtney and Representative Teresa Alonso León plan to host a town hall at Woodburn High School for the Marion County community to discuss mental health in high school and among teens. Spanish interpretation services will be provided.

The Oregon Health Authority Teen Survey reported that over 30% of 8th and 11th graders reported feeling sad or hopeless during the school year. There are over 750 reported suicide attempts by teens--this number is higher from self-reported data. Partners in youth suicide prevention work agree there is a need for discussion and solutions to mitigate this trend. The town halls will seek to gain insight from youth about important issues like bullying, stress, and mental health with the input from teachers, parents and community members.

Senator Peter Courtney shared his views, "This is a very serious issue. We have to do everything we can to help our young people in crisis. I hope you can join us for this important conversation."

Representative Teresa Alonso León commented on the meaning behind the event, "I have heard from concerned community members across the region about the need to continue address the safety and well-being of our young people. That is why I look forward to meeting with Woodburn area residents from all backgrounds to discuss specific ways mental health resources can support our youth."

"Working as a direct service provider statewide, we are committed to solutions that help all youth from all backgrounds," says Martin Rafferty, Executive Director of Youth ERA. "Youth ERA is excited to be a partner on these important conversations about teen mental health and suicide prevention,"

"Suicide is taking way too many of our youth," says Dwight Holton, CEO, Lines for Life. "We have to get the message out that there's hope and we must, as a community, have constructive conversations so we can prevent suicide among teens."

State senators and representatives are looking to hear from the community on how we can address suicide prevention in schools, and best support youth mental health. A youth representative from Youth ERA and YouthLine will join the legislators on stage to listen and share their experience.

DETAILS

September 18th, 6-8pm, Doors at 5:30pm

Woodburn High School, Large Commons

1785 N Front St,

Woodburn, OR 97071

****Spanish interpretation services will be provided****

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