**RE: DRAFT SURVEY REVIEW for Supporting Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Efforts in Washington Postsecondary Institutions through Senate Bill 6514**

Dear Colleague -

[Senate Bill 6514](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Session%2520Laws/Senate/6514-S.SL.pdf) (S.B. 6514) passed in 2018 by the Washington State legislature. The bill includes three elements:

1. Suicide Prevention in Higher Education Grant program for high-need institutions
2. Publicly available resource for optional use by all institutions
3. **Data collection on the prevalence of suicidal behavior and related metrics in postsecondary institutions**

As part of Senate Bill 6514, the Washington State Legislature has asked for the cooperation of Washington State postsecondary institutions to provide data regarding behavioral health programs and services on an annual basis. The overall goal of this data gathering effort is to assess assets and needs regarding behavioral health and suicide prevention services, programs, and awareness at postsecondary institutions. These data will inform how the state legislature prioritizes investments in this area. In 2018-2019, the state legislature allocated $500,000 for a grant program for postsecondary institutions to meet their behavioral health needs. **Future funding depends on our collective action to demonstrate need and progress through data collection, strategic planning, and comprehensive programming.** Institutions’ eligibility for SB 6514 grant funding may also depend on completion of this survey.

Forefront Suicide Prevention at the University of Washington, in collaboration with a Work Group, is leading the data collection effort.

We are providing you this draft survey for two purposes. First, as someone who may be providing the data requested in this survey, your valuable perspective is critical to ensuring the survey domains capture data that is feasible to collect, relevant for postsecondary institutions, and actionable to improve behavioral health and prevent suicide among postsecondary students. Second, we would like to familiarize postsecondary institutions with the type of data that will be collected, so you may prepare accordingly for January 2019 when we anticipate administering the final version of this survey. SB6514 requires that data are collected by June 1, 2019.

Please send any comments to Sarah Hohl, SB 6514 Data Lead at hohl@uw.edu, by **Monday, October 29** to ensure we can incorporate your feedback into a draft to be presented at a November 8 Work Group meeting. You are also invited to visit the Forefront Website’s SB 6514 [public comment section](http://www.intheforefront.org/sb6514/).

We look forward to your engagement in preventing suicide among students in Washington State.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hohl

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SB 6514 Data Lead

Forefront Suicide Prevention

[www.intheforefront.org](http://www.intheforefront.org)