RE: SURVEY FOR YOUR COMPLETION for Supporting Behavioral Health and Suicide Prevention Efforts in Washington Postsecondary Institutions through Senate Bill 6514

Dear Colleague -

As part of [Senate Bill 6514](http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Session%2520Laws/Senate/6514-S.SL.pdf): Concerning suicide prevention and behavioral health in higher education, with enhanced services to student veterans, 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 goal of this effort is to determine postsecondary institutions’ behavioral health and suicide prevention assets and needs. These data will inform how the state legislature prioritizes investments in this area.

In this inaugural year of data collection, we are asking you to report on the period between February 1 and April 30, 2019. In future years, you will be asked to report on the entire school year. **Please complete and submit this assessment by June 1, 2019.**

You may open the survey in your web browser by clicking the link below:
[Baseline survey to assess behavioral health programs, services, and awareness among Washington State postsecondary institutions](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__redcap.iths.org_surveys_-3Fs-3DWATPHTHRNM&d=DwMGaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=zqNiU5YnJFpYKJ9VK7jEgg&m=TtYNmZdiwTRkoPodd4bbe2spopsaZflcI56Xgx4JDqE&s=NrlBYeXmN9-6X6wpOB6CSm6roKn7Cl08d-IG_SMyQrU&e=)

If the link above does not work, try copying the link below into your web browser:
<https://redcap.iths.org/surveys/?s=WATPHTHRNM>

**What is the goal of this effort?**

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 in Washington. These data will inform how the state legislature prioritizes investments in this area. For example, this year the state made $420,000 available for grants to help postsecondary institutions 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. Upon completion of this survey, your institution will be eligible to apply for future grant funding when available.

**Who should complete this survey?**

We suggest that the Senior Student Affairs Officers, the Director of Student Affairs/Services, or person in the equivalent position complete this survey. However, we expect that this effort will require gathering data from several institutional departments that may include but may not be limited to the Registrar, Health and/or Counseling Services, Veteran and Military Resource Office, Residence Life, Facilities, Security, and others.

**How will these data help students at my institution?**

These data will help the state legislature prioritize investments in supporting student behavioral health and suicide prevention. In addition, this work will provide institutions feedback about support for student success that exists at their institution and at similar institutions around the state. Finally, the data will help inform other aspects of SB 6514, which include grants to resource-limited postsecondary institutions in Washington and development of a publicly available resource designed to improve behavioral health among postsecondary students.

**How will these data be used and shared?**

This project will result in an annual report to the Legislature beginning in December 2019. All data reported in this survey will remain confidential. Data will be aggregated (e.g., by total responses, by type of postsecondary institution). Although a list of participating institutions may appear in the report, names of individual reporters will not appear, nor will any data be reported in connection with individual institutions. Participating institutions will be provided with a report of aggregate data. These data will also be used to identify and share promising practices to improve student behavioral health across the state.

**Please complete and submit this assessment by June 1, 2019.**

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

Sincerely,

SECTOR REP NAME

On behalf of Sarah Hohl

hohl@uw.edu

SB 6514 Data Lead

Forefront Suicide Prevention

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