

Laura Godinez

From: GRI Admin <grassrootsinstitute707@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:22 PM
To: Laura Godinez
Subject: Comment for Safety Committee: Petition to Fort Bragg and Caltrans: Installation of Safety Measures on Bridges

Dear Fort Bragg Public Safety Committee,

Please find the petition at this link titled *Petition to Fort Bragg and Caltrans: Installation of Safety Measures on Bridges*:

<https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-fort-bragg-and-caltrans-installation-of-safety-measures-on-bridges>

At the time of this email, the petition had 119 verified signatures and they are growing daily. We implore the City, County, and State governments to install any means necessary to prevent losing another beloved member of our community to suicide from our bridges. The text of the petition reads as follows:

Petition to the Fort Bragg, Mendocino County Government, and Caltrans: Installation of Safety Measures on Local Bridges

We, the undersigned residents of Mendocino County and concerned citizens, are writing to urge immediate action regarding the safety of local bridges, including Noyo and Albion Bridges. These bridges, while important landmarks in our community, have tragically become sites where too many individuals have made the heartbreaking decision to end their lives.

~~In light of these devastating incidents, we request to Caltrans, Mendocino County, and the City of Fort Bragg that the following safety measures be implemented:~~

1. **Suicide Nets:** The installation of suicide nets beneath the bridge and/or tall fencing along the bridge would serve as a vital deterrent and provide a lifesaving option for individuals in crisis. We agree with Fort Bragg Police Chief Cervenka's 1/2/25 Letter which supports installing suicide nets similar to those installed on the Golden Gate Bridge.
2. **Helpline Phones:** We propose the deployment of emergency helpline phones and signs strategically placed along the bridge, offering immediate access to mental health support and resources for those who may be struggling.
3. **Increased Surveillance:** More security cameras should be installed to monitor the bridge effectively, allowing authorities to respond quickly if someone appears to be in distress. This would also assist in search efforts if someone goes missing, as we have seen in our town's recent tragedy.
4. **Outreach, Community Engagement, and Education Programs:** Conducting community awareness campaigns

about mental health resources, focusing on suicide prevention, and promoting mental wellness can help reduce stigma and encourage those in need to seek help. Involving local mental health organizations, advocacy groups, and community leaders in discussions about suicide prevention can enhance support efforts and ensure targeted initiatives.

6. Crisis Intervention Training: Providing training for staff at nearby businesses or organizations to recognize signs of distress and intervene appropriately can lead to timely help.

7. Regular Reviews and Assessments: Continuously evaluating and updating safety measures based on community feedback and emerging research can ensure the effectiveness of the interventions put in place.

The implementation of these measures would not only serve as a preventative step against tragic decisions but also communicate to our community that mental health is a priority, and support is available.

We believe that the installation of these safety measures is both necessary and urgent. Let us take action to protect the lives of individuals in our community and create an environment that fosters hope and support.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We hope that you will act swiftly to help us make our bridge a safer place for everyone.

Thank you,
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