

To Whom It May Concern:

As a tax-paying resident of the state of Kansas I write you in support of Senate Bill No. 323; An Act concerning school districts; creating the Jason Flatt act; requiring suicide prevention training for school district personnel.

Per the Fiscal Note for SB 323, dated 1/20/16, "enactment of SB 323 would have NO FISCAL EFFECT for the state" - but it would have a tremendous impact in preventing future suicide attempts by Kansas youth.

According to recent KS data from KDHE in January 2015:

- *Suicide was also the 10th leading cause of death in Kansas in 2013, responsible for 426 deaths.*

According to recent U.S. data from SAVE.org:

- *1 in 100,000 children ages 10 to 14 die by suicide each year. (NIMH)*
- *7 in 100,000 youth ages 15 to 19 die by suicide each year. (NIMH)*
- *Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year old Americans. (CDC)*
- *The prevalence of suicidal thoughts, suicidal planning and suicide attempts is significantly higher among adults aged 18-29 than among adults aged 30+. (CDC)*

As an RN who has experienced working with the relatives of those who have committed suicide, I have seen the terrible impact and life-long trauma endured by the surviving siblings and parents. In addition to prevention of the loss of life in young adults and school age children, this bill can help prevent the tremendous amount of long term suffering that occurs in the surviving family.

Please add my name to those who support Senate Bill 323.

Thank You,

Catherine Creed
5007 Howe Dr.
Roeland Park, KS.
66205
913-302-1075