

Proponent for the bill hearing Wednesday March 9th, 2016

Good morning,

My name is Allison Doss. I am a proponent for bill. In July 2015 my daughter Sara Prideaux ended her life by suicide. She was going into her junior year at Shawnee Mission South in Overland Park Kansas. She was a vibrant, smart and loving 16 year old. Sara was involved in anything school oriented. She was in the top of her class speaking multiple languages fluently. She was a member of student council and enjoyed helping in the theater department. Her entire world was school. Sara was always helping others. She had the kindest heart. Her smile was infectious. She had spent time over the summer in Spain with her classmates and teachers. After her death I look back and think how many people were in her life that didn't have any training in mental health. How many of those people were teachers or educators? In hindsight Sara showed many signs that she was struggling. Signs in teenagers are so different. Suicide prevention needs to be in the schools for the teacher and the parents. We have to be able to give our children the tools to succeed which also means we need to give the teachers the tools to succeed and helping our children with not just their education needs but their emotional needs as well. This bill does just that. It will allow the additional training to be provided for the education staff for free without costing the school money. This bill could save other children where my daughter was not able to be saved. Help give the tools to the people who are spending over 40 hours with our children every week. Help lower the second leading cause in death among ages of 10 to 24. Help keep this tragedy that has happened to many of us in this room, from happening to anyone else. We have changed over the last 50 years to teaching sex education, safe driving, alcohol and drug prevention but what about the 2nd leading cause in death in our children. Let me tell you it's SUICIDE. What you are you going to do to help these children? They are our future. My daughter was going to change the world. She had the potential to do anything she wanted. Now the only thing she will do is be a memory. I will continue to SPEAK UP for those who have lost their voice. I Allison Doss am a proponent. I hope that you never have to face the hell of losing a child like we have. I am not willing to risk



another child loss to suicide.

Allison Doss

913-980-9494