

Bill SB323

Proponent

Oral and written testimony

Hearing date 03/09/2016

Speaker Betty Brennan speaking on behalf of KJ's "I BELIEVE" fight against Suicide

February 26, 2014, my son Kyler Wayne Jones born April 19 1998 a very caring and loving big brother to Broderick and Sheridan Jones became a youth suicide statistic. I along with his family, friends and community became Suicide Survivors. Committee members as I stood in my 15 year old son bedroom only 40 minutes after I had wished him a good day at school and told him I loved him I faced the silent epidemic that has become the 2nd leading cause of death in our youth. I vowed to myself and my lifeless son at that moment I would break the silence.

When I testified in front of the senate education committee members I shared more on a personal note, I shared of my well liked, freshman and sophomore varsity football letterman, good natured community member and the smile that my Kyler showed the world. He was the reason I stood in front of a committee and plead for the Jason Flatt act to be passed. After the hearing on January 26, 2016 which set my name and face all across the State of Kansas newspapers and TV stations events start that has changed my reason for being here today, not my motivation but my reason. See I can't bring Kyler back but I can assist in making sure other lives are saved. In a little over a month span I have been contacted by more than a handful of teens and parents, some needing help for a friend or child, and a few themselves entering the crisis stage. Every time I have led them to the Jason Flatt foundation Website. On two incidents I have activated a child in need of care with law Enforcement or school staff because of the signs these teens has shown and the fear they may harm themselves.

I have been contacted by school administration asking for help locating more information and training. Once again they have used the Jason Flatt Foundation; by using this they were able to help educated parents as well. I am happy to say these teen are stilling walking this earth, their story didn't end. Why would we not mandate something our schools are showing the need for, when it is available for no cost. We are in no way asking Kansas teacher to be liable for every child's mental health or to take over as the Parents. We are asking for some training the same way our staff becomes trained in CPR, In the event of cardiac arrest which isn't even a top ten leading cause of death in youth. You should be able to see the top ten cause of death in the pdf file I sent, the green is Suicide. I'd say the entire nation needs to start breaking the silence.

The moms, dads, family and friends that sit behind me are all here because we have endured a nightmare, which we should never have had to face. As much as I am blessed to have the opportunity to get to know these wonderful people our goal is to make sure the State Of Kansas puts a plan in place to educate all Kansas School staff on the signs of Suicide. Our goal is to not allow another parent to

stand behind us as we speak out on this silent epidemic, never to feel the pain, and loss that losing your child to suicide causes. Together we pray that you as the house education committee can understand the great need for this bill to become law. We will continue to fight and break the silent epidemic because every life matters.

I would like to leave you with Kyler's favorite quote I BELIEVE

I Believe

Life is more than survival

I Believe

The heart is more than a muscle

I Believe

We can know right from wrong

I Believe

In hope and freedom

I believe my life can make a difference

I believe

In the message of the cross

Now I ask you

What do you?

Believe

10 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, United States – 2014

Rank	Age Groups										Total
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Congenital Anomalies 4,746	Unintentional Injury 1,216	Unintentional Injury 730	Unintentional Injury 750	Unintentional Injury 11,836	Unintentional Injury 17,357	Unintentional Injury 16,048	Malignant Neoplasms 44,834	Malignant Neoplasms 115,282	Heart Disease 489,722	Heart Disease 614,348
2	Short Gestation 4,173	Congenital Anomalies 399	Malignant Neoplasms 436	Suicide 425	Suicide 5,079	Suicide 6,569	Malignant Neoplasms 11,267	Heart Disease 34,791	Heart Disease 74,473	Malignant Neoplasms 413,885	Malignant Neoplasms 591,699
3	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 1,574	Homicide 354	Congenital Anomalies 192	Malignant Neoplasms 416	Homicide 4,144	Homicide 4,159	Heart Disease 10,368	Unintentional Injury 20,610	Unintentional Injury 18,030	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 124,693	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 147,101
4	SIDS 1,545	Malignant Neoplasms 321	Homicide 123	Congenital Anomalies 156	Malignant Neoplasms 1,569	Malignant Neoplasms 3,624	Suicide 6,706	Suicide 8,767	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 16,492	Cerebrovascular 113,308	Unintentional Injury 136,053
5	Unintentional Injury 1,161	Heart Disease 149	Heart Disease 69	Homicide 156	Heart Disease 953	Heart Disease 3,341	Homicide 2,586	Liver Disease 8,627	Diabetes Mellitus 13,342	Alzheimer's Disease 92,604	Cerebrovascular 133,103
6	Placenta Cord Membranes 965	Influenza & Pneumonia 109	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 68	Heart Disease 122	Congenital Anomalies 377	Liver Disease 725	Liver Disease 2,582	Diabetes Mellitus 6,062	Liver Disease 12,792	Diabetes Mellitus 54,161	Alzheimer's Disease 93,541
7	Bacterial Sepsis 544	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 53	Influenza & Pneumonia 57	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 71	Influenza & Pneumonia 199	Diabetes Mellitus 709	Diabetes Mellitus 1,999	Cerebrovascular 5,349	Cerebrovascular 11,727	Unintentional Injury 45,295	Diabetes Mellitus 76,488
8	Respiratory Distress 460	Septicemia 53	Cerebrovascular 45	Cerebrovascular 43	Diabetes Mellitus 181	HIV 583	Cerebrovascular 1,745	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 4,402	Suicide 7,521	Influenza & Pneumonia 44,836	Influenza & Pneumonia 55,227
9	Circulatory System Disease 444	Benign Neoplasms 38	Benign Neoplasms 36	Influenza & Pneumonia 41	Chronic Low Respiratory Disease 178	Cerebrovascular 579	HIV 1,174	Influenza & Pneumonia 2,731	Septicemia 5,709	Nephritis 39,957	Nephritis 48,146
10	Neonatal Hemorrhage 441	Perinatal Period 38	Septicemia 33	Benign Neoplasms 38	Cerebrovascular 177	Influenza & Pneumonia 549	Influenza & Pneumonia 1,125	Septicemia 2,514	Influenza & Pneumonia 5,390	Septicemia 29,124	Suicide 42,773

Data Source: National Vital Statistics System, National Center for Health Statistics, CDC.
Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™

