



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT - The Jason Flatt Act Passes in Illinois

The Jason Foundation is proud to announce that on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, HB 4672, also known as the Jason Flatt Act, passed the Senate and was sent to Illinois Governor Pat Quinn for his approval. Introduced by Representative Greg Harris, the Jason Flatt Act provides that school guidance counselors, teachers and other school personnel who work with students in grades seven through twelve shall be trained for at least two hours in suicide prevention and identification of warning signs of suicidal behavior in adolescents and teens and shall be taught appropriate intervention and referral techniques. Illinois will become the 5th state to pass the Jason Flatt Act following Tennessee, California, Louisiana and Mississippi.

Almost 13% of young people in Illinois reported they had seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months according to the 2007 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey conducted by the Center for Disease Control. The purpose of the Jason Flatt Act is to provide educators with the information, tools and resources to help them identify these potentially at-risk young people and know how to respond within their school's protocol.

The Jason Flatt Act - HB 4672 was introduced and sponsored in the Illinois House of Representatives by Representative Greg Harris and co-sponsored by Representatives Harry Osterman, Fred Crespo, Karen A. Yarbrough, Marlow H. Colvin, Elizabeth Hernandez, Edward J. Acevedo, Cynthia Soto, Dan Brady and Al Riley. In the Illinois' Senate, Senator Heather Steans introduced and sponsored The Jason Flatt Act – HB 4672 and was co-sponsored by Senator Antonio Muñoz, Senator Emil Jones, III and Senator Martin A. Sandoval.

We at The Jason Foundation are excited about Illinois being the 5th state to pass this important legislation that will help save lives! We want to thank our legislative sponsors and the entire House and Senate of Illinois for their passion in passing The Jason Flatt Act – HB 4672. We also want to thank our JFI offices, The Jason Foundation @ Streamwood Behavioral Healthcare System; The Jason Foundation @ Riveredge Hospital; and The Jason Foundation @ Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health System for their tireless support and passion in getting this legislation passed. Thanks also to the many volunteers who worked with JFI staff in helping pass this legislation.

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