



**The Jason Foundation, Inc.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEXAS GOVERNOR SIGNS SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT INTO LAW**

The Jason Flatt Act has passed in Texas, Becoming the 16<sup>th</sup> State to Require the Training

(AUSTIN, TX—June 19, 2015) Governor Greg Abbott signed The Jason Flatt Act in memory of Jonathan Childers (HB2186) into law, making Texas the 16<sup>th</sup> state to pass The Jason Flatt Act since 2007.

Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death in our nation, and in Texas, for ages 10-24, only surpassed by “unintentional injuries.” The Jason Flatt Act works within a state’s requirements for In-Service or Certification Training by adding youth suicide awareness and prevention as part of that state’s training for educators.

Clark Flatt, President of The Jason Foundation, said, “Our goal with The Jason Flatt Act is not to make teachers into counselors, but rather equip them with information, tools and resources to help better identify and assist at-risk youth for suicide. Bottom line, lives will be saved.” The Bill was sponsored in the House by Representative Bryon Cook and in the Senate by Senator Dr. Donna Campbell.

The Jason Flatt Act in Texas was passed in honor of Jonathan Childers, a 15 year old student from Fairfield ISD who took his life almost two years ago. “The Jason Flatt Act honoring Jonathan Childers would not have been possible without Jonathan’s family, friends, and the Fairfield Independent School District. Their enormous support, and passion for our mission, made all the difference in the passage of this bill,” said Michele Ray, CEO of The Jason Foundation.

The Jason Flatt Act has now been passed in the following 16 states: Tennessee, Louisiana, California, Mississippi, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Utah, Alaska, South Carolina, Ohio, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Georgia, and Texas.

**About The Jason Foundation:**

The Jason Foundation, Inc., is dedicated to the prevention of the "Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational and awareness programs to equip young people, educators/youth workers and parents with the tools and resources to help identify and assist at-risk youth.

**For more information visit: [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com)**