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The Jason Foundation, Inc.

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KANSAS GOVERNOR SIGNS SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT INTO LAW

The Jason Flatt Act Has Passed in Kansas, Becoming the 19th State to Require the Training

(Topeka, KS – May 13, 2016) Governor Sam Brownback signed The Jason Flatt Act – Kansas in memory of Cady Housh (SB323) into law, making Kansas the 19th state to pass The Jason Flatt Act since 2007. The Bill was sponsored by Senator Greg Smith of Kansas Senate District 21.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in our nation, and in Kansas, for ages 10-24. 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 Jason Flatt Act in Kansas was passed in honor of Cady Housh, a 16 year old student from Olathe who took her life in 2014. "The Jason Flatt Act honoring Cady Housh would not have been possible without Cady's family, friends, and the Olathe community. 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.

Others who supported this bill and worked diligently to move the bill forward were Attorney General Derek Schmidt, Sara Hortenstine (Executive Director for Office of AG), Cathy Housh (Mother of Cady Housh), Marcia Epstein (Specialist in crisis intervention, suicide prevention and host of Talk With Me radio hour), Scott Gordon (General Counsel in the Kansas State Department of Education), Andrew Brown (Executive Director of Headquarters, Inc.), Susan Crain Lewis (President/CEO of Mental Health America of the Heartland), and all of the parents/survivors who testified in support of this legislation.

The Jason Flatt Act has now been passed in the following 19 states: Tennessee, Louisiana, California, Mississippi, Illinois, Arkansas, West Virginia, Utah, South Carolina, Alaska, Ohio, North Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Georgia, Texas, South Dakota, Alabama, and Kansas

About the Organization:

The Jason Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting "The Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational programs for young people, educators, parents, and other community groups. JFI, headquartered in Hendersonville, TN, was founded in 1997 after the tragic death of Jason Flatt, the 16-year-old son of Clark Flatt.

For more information, please visit JFI's website, <http://www.jasonfoundation.com>

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