



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO NEW STATES SIGN SUICIDE PREVENTION ACT INTO LAW

The Jason Flatt Act Has Passed in Alabama and Kansas, 19 States Now Require the Training

(Hendersonville, TN – June 1, 2016) The Jason Flatt Act has been passed in Alabama and Kansas, becoming the 18th and 19th states to require the training. Governor Robert Bentley signed The Jason Flatt Act – Alabama (SB11) into law on May 10th. The Bill was sponsored by Senator Gerald Allen of Alabama Senate District 11. Governor Sam Brownback signed The Jason Flatt Act – Kansas in memory of Cady Housh (SB323) into law on May 13th. The Bill was sponsored by Senator Greg Smith of Kansas Senate District 21.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death in our nation 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 youth at-risk for suicide. Bottom line, lives will be saved."

Many passionate organizations and individuals were supportive of both pieces of legislation. The Jason Flatt Act in Kansas was passed in honor of Cady Housh, a 16 year old student from Olathe, KS who took her life in 2014.

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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