



- ❖ **The Jason Flatt Act** (we request each state name this legislation as such to help us build a national awareness about this legislation – much like the “Amber Alert” legislation) – is a legislative action that builds within a state’s current In-Service Training / Certification requirements two hours training in youth suicide awareness and prevention. It is important to note, this does not increase the number of hours required – only shifts hours from what would be “elective subject hours” to “required subject hours”.
- ❖ **The Jason Flatt Act** has had the endorsement from the Teacher’s Association and Department of Education in every state it has passed.
- ❖ **The Jason Flatt Act** has been passed in Tennessee; Mississippi; California; Louisiana; Illinois; Arkansas.
- ❖ If passed as proposed / outlined, **The Jason Flatt Act** can be passed as a mandatory requirement without a fiscal note or any cost to the educator, school, school district or state for the training. The Jason Foundation will provide at no-cost to the participants / state access to their On-Line In-Service Training Library that will satisfy the requirements of the law and acts as a “fail-safe” safety net to insure access to training by all educators without cost. (will be glad to discuss why “mandatory” is an important part to assure all youth have benefit of a teacher who has been trained).
- ❖ Although The Jason Foundation offers its On-Line In-Service Training Library as a resource, **The Jason Flatt Act** does not require any specific program be utilized. We have found, as we have foretold, that many groups such as NAMI, MHA, Crisis Response Centers and Suicide Prevention Coalitions have eagerly offered to provide such training to schools at no-cost.
- ❖ In a recent national survey of educators who had satisfied their requirement utilizing The Jason Foundation’s On-Line In-Service Training Library (we don’t have access to other organization’s records) – almost 90% of the educators reported now feeling more confident in reaching out to a student whom they feel may be struggling with issue of suicidal ideation or more confident should a student come to them for help.
- ❖ As to an argument that some have utilized – “not putting any other responsibility on our teachers”: The Child Abuse Statute that most states have adopted already specifically names “teachers” as “First Reporters” in issues that deal with physical or emotional abuse (suicidal ideation is such a sign). It can be argued that teacher’s are already legally responsible to report signs of suicidal ideation, they just have not been trained which could raise legal questions.
- ❖ Over a five-year period (2004-2008) in Tennessee, It was reported by the Department of Health that although suicide rates increased overall 15% - youth suicide continued its decrease...31.4% over 5 years. Two of these years The Jason Flatt Act was active in TN, but the previous three years – although not mandated – JFI had trained several thousand educators. Since this training was one of the only differences of resources

provided across Tennessee's population – we believe the importance is easily seen in the training of educators as an impact on lowering suicide attempts and suicide deaths.

- ❖ Providing training to our educators is also listed as one of the “Goals” of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention – a model most states utilize for the state plans.