

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
01/13/2015

Amendment to: SB 2209

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2013-2015 Biennium		2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2013-2015 Biennium	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium
Counties	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cities	\$0	\$0	\$0
School Districts	\$0	\$0	\$0
Townships	\$0	\$0	\$0

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

There is no anticipated fiscal note for this bill.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

There is no anticipated fiscal note for this bill.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

There is no anticipated fiscal note for this bill.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

There is no anticipated fiscal note for this bill.

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

There is no anticipated fiscal note for this bill.

Name: Valerie Fischer

Agency: Public Instruction

Telephone: 328-4138

Date Prepared: 01/15/2015

FISCAL NOTE
Requested by Legislative Council
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Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2209

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Date Prepared: 01/15/2015

2015 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2209

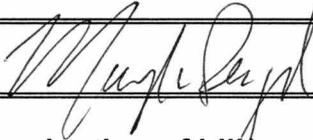
2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2209
1/19/2015
Job # 22087 (28:42)

Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

INITIAL HEARING
relating to youth suicide prevention training

Minutes:

Attachments #1-#3

Chairman Flakoll called the committee to order at 9am.

Joan Heckaman, District 23 Senator (*see attachment #1*)

Heckaman: The Jason Flatt Foundation was started by the father of Jason Flatt after the Jason committed suicide when he was a sophomore in high school. The family had no indication and was concerned that if the teachers had any indication, they weren't following through. We aren't trying to make councilors out of our administrators, but the materials that are online have a brief summary of materials but not all materials available to schools. Schools have to be brought online through the Department of Public Instruction to receive all the materials.

(4:15) **Richard Marcellais**, District 9 Senator (*see attachment #2*)

(6:25) **Gail Schauer**, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools (*see attachment #3*)

Senator Schaible: You requested all staff. How far are we going with that?

Schauer: It would be all staff that works with children, and it can always be open for interested staff. The main point of this bill is to get that staffs who work with children knowledgeable about mental health.

Senator Schaible: Would it be necessary to still do an annual training every year after years of this implementation?

Schauer: It should be annually. We're asking 2 hours out of every year. Within this bill we are asking not only for suicide prevention but mental health awareness and knowledge. It expands more on the first bill as far as what would be covered.

Senator Davison: Do we have any data regarding how schools deliver this training? In Fargo, we have face to face classes, and I believe Senator Heckaman's testimony implied somewhat of an online training.

Schauer: It can be both. Online is convenient with anyone's agenda.

Senator Davison: We don't know how schools specifically deliver this training whether online or in person? We just know there is a report that came to Department of Public Instruction confirming they completed the task, correct?

Schauer: Correct.

Senator Davison: Was there any thought to provide a fiscal note?

Schauer: I would think with all of the options available such as online training, a fiscal note is not very necessary.

Senator Davison: Schools carry a big work load and sometimes without funding. Would there be any funds from Center for Disease Control that could help support this work?

Schauer: There are no funds available at this time for that, but we are training a cadre of 25 trainers and actively looking for ways to allow those trainers go out into the school districts. SB 2048 is asking for funding for that group of mental health trainers to go out and help train all school staff for mental health awareness.

Senator Davison: Have we had conversations with our North Dakota colleges regarding training for new teachers that are coming out of our colleges and going into the North Dakota Schools?

Schauer: Those conversations have just barely begun. Within the Department of Public Instruction the State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler has a mental health initiative that she has been pushing forward, so there a few things that are being put in place. One is the cadre of trainers to train school staff who specifically work with children ages 12-18. We're working with SB 2048 hoping to get additional funding for this additional funding and if not we will look for different avenues to do so. We are also looking for somebody to put together an elementary curriculum so the people who work with children under the age of 12 can have a proper awareness on mental health. We have things in place that we are working towards.

Senator Davison: Why stop at 6th grade? Why not include 5th graders for the transitional year from elementary to middle school?

Schauer: We do have training in place for people who work with children from ages 12-18. We believe that it is important for even lower elementary teachers and staff to know this information.

Senator Marcellais: During my researched for this bill, it mentioned bullying as one of the symptom causing suicide. Do you think the Department of Public Instruction should put this into their bullying plan for the schools?

Schauer: I hadn't thought of that, but it's an interesting thought.

(17:40) **Fern Pokorny**, Lobbyist #220 with North Dakota United

Pokorny: We just wanted to voice our support for SB 2209. Anything we can do to help our teens stay away from suicide, we will support. I work in the field mostly in the West, but I hear from teachers around the state. I am constantly in contact with our members and nobody has complained. There is no pushback.

Chairman Flakoll: Are you hearing of any benefits or lack thereof from the program we enlisted two years ago?

Pokorny: Sorry, I have not.

Chairman Flakoll calls Gail Schauer back to the podium

Schauer: Senator Marcellais, you mentioned about bullying in the bill. When you look at mental illness, bullying may be part of it, but we are also taking into account many other

factors such as substance abuse. Just having it in one bullying bill may limit it for people thinking it's just for bullying.

Senator Davison: Where would you suggest putting it so that it is part of the school improvement process and people recognize the importance of it?

Schauer: Where it is now serves its purpose. I don't know if there would be a better place within the Century Code or not.

Senator Davison: But within the school and incorporated within the bullying plan of a school district. That way, there is a plan each year as part of new teacher induction where that is reviewed and brought to light for everyone that could take place within the first days of professional development at the schools.

Schauer: Within the school it could be put into the staff handbook, professional development plan or even the student handbook so parents are aware.

Chairman Flakoll closes the hearing on SB 2209.

(22:40) **Chairman Flakoll:** Does anyone have plans for amendments?

Senator Davison: I would like to do more research on the purpose of the bullying plan.

Chairman Flakoll: We don't want to limit it to that but we can consider including it.

Senator Marcellais: I think it should be in the overall school plan some place and perhaps the student handbook. The more you can publicize it, the better off we are.

Senator Schaible: On line 8 regarding the staff, the way it's written it would justify all staff. It needs clarification.

Chairman Flakoll: I had concern about that as well regarding staff with indirect or direct contact with the students. My other concern would be having the training every year or just the first year and then every other year thereafter.

Senator Schaible: I would like to wait to vote.

Vice Chairman Rust: My thoughts are also about the staff. I understand in cases like a paraprofessional may have close contact with a student, but the term "staff" is too unclear.

Chairman Flakoll: One could argue that this isn't solely for children, but there is likely value between and among the adults in school system as well.

Senator Oban: Should there be something to say that the school district shall "provide" versus "require" the training? It would be nice that it was open to bus drivers and cooks and other staff who are around children but don't have direct contact.

Chairman Flakoll: It's required to those listed here right now. If you have the individuals within the school building with little or no contact, they would certainly make it available. That can be considered for an amendment.

Senator Schaible: If it's optional, it's probably already being done. There are required bus driver's workshops and pre-session meetings with parent. Those issues are already addressed. If the school wants to do it they can, but this bill would mandate and go beyond that.

Chairman Flakoll ends discussion on SB 2209.

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2209
1/28/2015
Job # 22712 (20:52)

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature 

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

COMMITTEE ACTION with **Gail Shauer**

Minutes:

No attachments

Chairman Flakoll: Is there anything you wish to add?

Shauer: You asked where the schools would put it. After thinking it through, I thought that the schools don't need to put it anywhere. It would go well in the professional development plan because if it was passed, it would be 2 hours of training every year. I know they have 2 or 3 days that are set aside for professional development for their teachers. This would require 2 hours specifically to suicide prevention or mental health.

The other discussion on how frequently and after thinking that through, I thought about how broad mental health is. 1 out of every 5 children within one school year deal with a mental health issue. The mental health could be signs and symptoms to watch for, how to talk to the children, when to refer for screening. The whole goal for that is to identify these issues at an early stage and get them into the services they need. The sooner they get into the services, the better chances they have to get their mental health issues reduced, delayed or even cured.

Chairman Flakoll: There seems to be some angst with the term "staff". We have a variety of people termed as staff, so how do we best handle that?

Shauer: We look at all staff. The food service staff have children walking through the line at all times and sometimes the behaviors and issues that children have come out at different times of the day. It may be that the food service staff or bus driver recognizes something more than the teacher. The custodian sees many things that occur in hallways. In a perfect world, it would be all staff. It would be great if the schools provide the training and allow time for the staff to attend it.

Chairman Flakoll: You have buildings and grounds people whose job is only landscaping for instance. Should we limit it with staff that has direct contact with students?

Shauer: They do have contact with the students at some point or another, even if they are shoveling the sidewalk. I know it would be something to take into their personal lives as well. It would help them not only in school, but in life.

Senator Davison: It is important what we are doing with the mental health risk indicators and training. However the wording is so vague. It doesn't reference who does the training, what type of trainer and what training the trainer is receiving. Could the Department of Public Instruction put together a train the trainer for the best quality? Secondly, I know schools are sending people out for this training. There is cost to it and now it is a continued process of asking schools to do more with fewer funds. It doesn't seem like there is an overall goal of what we are trying to accomplish. It is generic.

Shauer: I agree that it is vague, but I don't know if we want it to make it specific. The intent of this bill is to make all staff aware of this, but it can be handled in different ways. It can be done through outside staff, inside councilors or online. We are training a cadre of North Dakota staff who will be trained to train in mental health. Our goal is to make sure all school staff across North Dakota gets trained in that. There is another bill requesting money for this, and if it were to be passed, that would alleviate any kind of problems with the schools finding a trainer and even having a cost associated with it.

Chairman Flakoll: I visited with Senator Judy Lee with respect to the bill you just referenced. What is the relationship of these two?

Shauer: They are complimentary. We understand that one or both may or may not pass. If SB 2048 with the funding does not pass, we will look for other avenues to move forward with our initiative. Regardless of what passes, we still have the cadre of trainers will still be there. They are being trained with state money, and the training will be done in March.

(9:05) **Vice Chairman Rust:** Isn't suicide risk a subset of mental health?

Shauer: I would agree with that. Suicide prevention training is obviously very specific to suicide. Mental health is a little bit larger dealing with anxiety, bipolar, and schizophrenia for instance. Like my testimony stated before, with all people who have a mental health issue, 50% have symptoms before the age of 14.

Chairman Flakoll: Is part of the reason why suicide was left in there because of the assistance from the Jason Flatt Foundation?

Shauer: Suicide was left in there because it had so much evidence with the Foundation. If you go back to those testimonies you will see that Tennessee reduced their suicide rate within that group of youth significantly. Within the Department of Health, they have a person who works with suicide prevention. The mental health initiative in the Department of Public Instruction is fairly new. We are learning as we go as well, but we are passionate about it. We see the behaviors in kids and the trauma they go through. It can be as common as a parent's substance abuse or divorce situations. Kids just need help dealing with these issues.

Vice Chairman Rust: School staff members have always been dealing with these issues. I don't know if I agree with annual training. Stating that school districts shall do this with all staff for at least 2 hours, I am wondering what feedback you have gotten with these obligations?

Shauer: Teachers are passionate about these topics. They are looking for guidance on how to handle classroom management and a lot of it has to do with a mental health component. Kids act out for reasons. We want to look at teacher pre-service because to become a teacher, they have a lot of courses on core topics. Classroom management is offered but not required for their teaching degree. Many superintendents are positive on this feedback. A lot of schools are looking to implement this regardless.

Chairman Flakoll: Are there any districts that have systemized this approach? For example, if a student misses so many classes in a week, they are automatically flagged? Sometimes in a bigger school district it is difficult to keep a handle on the thousand or so students. Is there anything that has been done that on a standalone basis they may not know it, but in totality they can recognize these issues?

Shauer: I can't tell you across the state, but big districts have something like that in place.

Senator Davison: There is MTSS, Multi-Tier Systems of Support. It looks at factors such as grades and absences to identify behavioral issues.

Vice Chairman Rust: As a past school administrator, I worried about what is in the law that I should be doing for my staff and bus drivers. Is there a list so I will not be negligent for not having done some of these things that policy requires? There may not be consequences set in place, but liability is compromised.

Shauer: We need to compile a list for guidance. It is on our radar to do just that.

Chairman Flakoll: There is a bill that will be heard in the House.

Vice Chairman Rust: I would wonder how long that list is. There are so many different things that are in the law required from the schools and staff. I have never seen any taken out, only added responsibilities. However good this mental health training is, I think that is what we are doing again with this bill.

Chairman Flakoll ends the discussion on SB 2209.

2015 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee

Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2209

2/4/2015

Job # 23190 (10:49)

Subcommittee

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

COMMITTEE ACTION

Minutes:

1 attachment

(see attachment #1)

Vice Chairman Rust: What this amendment does is alters number 1 lines 7 through 10 of the bill. It drops the training from annually to once every two years. We also inserted the word "instructional staff". Then we restated the last section which reads, "relating to mental health risk indicators including youth suicide risk indicators, appropriate responses, and referral sources." I spoke with Senator Heckaman and she approved this.

Vice Chairman Rust makes a motion to adopt the amendment.

Senator Marcellais seconds the motion.

Senator Oban: I want to be on the record saying that I think including more staff than fewer is a good thing. Everyone in the school is an important factor in trying to prevent things like this. Kids connect with people on very different levels. I think it was important to include them. They should feel like they could play a role in preventing something as terrible as this.

Vice Chairman Rust: Nothing prevents a school district from doing that now and a lot of them do. What we are looking at here is at least 2 hours of professional development. This seems like a little more than what may be needed for that for the kitchen and janitorial staff. You are right to state that some students connect to other non-instructional staff, but I believe schools can and already do talk to those people about that.

Senator Marcellais: My son is a bus driver. He tells me about the students who talk to him. He sees the kids first in the morning and last at night. They have a big responsibility driving those kids.

Senator Oban: I don't think just because it's not written in here that people won't do it. It simply draws more attention to it if you include them in those conversations whether they choose to be or not. Including them in the language draws more importance to them understanding that they are a piece of trying to prevent that.

Vice Chairman Rust: There are workshops required annually of bus drivers. Many times they delve into many different topics other than road rules. In addition many school districts have a bus drivers' meeting prior to the beginning of school with a list of things covered.

Chairman Flakoll: Schools do many productive activities that we do not legislate.

A vote was taken: Yes: 6, No: 0, Absent: 0
The motion passes.

Vice Chairman Rust moves a do pass as amended.
Senator Marcellais seconds the motion.

A vote was taken: Yes: 6, No: 0, Absent: 0
The motion passes.

Senator Marcellais will carry the bill.

February 4, 2015

70
2/4/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2209

Page 1, line 7, remove the overstrike over "~~Once every two years~~"

Page 1, line 7, remove "Annually"

Page 1, line 8, after "school" insert "instructional"

Page 1, line 9, after the "to" insert "mental health risk indicators, including"

Page 1, line 9, remove "and mental health risk indicators"

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2209: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2209 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 7, remove the overstrike over "~~Once every two years~~"

Page 1, line 7, remove "Annually"

Page 1, line 8, after "school" insert "instructional"

Page 1, line 9, after the "to" insert "mental health risk indicators, including"

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Renumber accordingly

2015 HOUSE EDUCATION

SB 2209

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2209
3/9/2015
24519

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Donna Whelan

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to youth suicide prevention training.

Attachment #1-2.

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: opened the hearing on SB 2209.

Senator Joan Heckaman: District 23: (1:00-3:35) Introduced SB 2209 also asking for amendments to the bill. (See Attachment #1).

Chairman Nathe: Why did they make it every two years and strike out annually?

Senator Heckaman: I am not sure. I think annually would be good. It is not a very difficult training. This is online so you could assess this from home and be used year after year.

Chairman Nathe: On line 13 should that read Jason Flat foundation or is it Jason Foundation?

Senator Heckaman: I think it is ok the way it is and we checked with Legislative Council and they say it is ok.

Rep Hunsakor: The Jason Flat foundation the schools could use that material or any other material?

Senator Heckaman: There are a couple of programs that the DPI uses in coordination with the Department of Health. These materials are free of costs. It doesn't cost the state to use these materials. Because they have been successful I think this is an important program to support. I am not saying anything against any other programs that are out there. This morning we heard the Department of Health asking for an increase of \$500,000

dollars to work on suicide prevention. That is in a lot of other programs but they did focus on schools in that one too.

Chairman Nathe: Do we know how many people have taken this training already?

Senator Heckaman: No I don't. Department of Public Health may be able to help you with that.

Rep Rohr: Are the other materials evidence based or can we get a list of what the other materials are?

Senator Heckaman: I would say the Department could give you a list of those. There are two other programs and I believe they are evidence based or they wouldn't be used.

Rep Rohr: If you recall the Jason material is not evidence based.

Senator Heckaman: No it is not, but it is outcome based though.

Gail Schauer: Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools, Department of Public Institutions. (7:15- 10:54) in support of SB 2209. (See Attachment #2).

Rep Rohr: Do you have some ND stats since we have had this legislation for two years?

Gail Schauer: The stats are that every single school has to do it every two years. I am thinking 7000 teachers as an estimate.

Chairman Nathe: Your estimation is that 7000 teachers has already had this training?

Gail Schauer: In my estimation, yes.

Rep B. Koppelman: The current language in the bill left it up to the schools how often they did it? It didn't say annual or every two years? Is that correct?

Gail Schauer: It did say once at least every two years. 2 hours every two years.

Rep B. Koppelman: Maybe that is not printed on this bill then. You talked about providing mental health services the training you are wanting to do is to identify mental illness. If trained staff member seeing a student needed mental health services, how would they further assess that? Would they talk to the student or the parent or how would that work?

Gail Schauer: They youth mental first aid training is kind of a first responder. They liken it to CPR, it is training to have teachers be first responders. It teaches the adults how to approach a student that shows signs of mental illness and what signs to look for and where to go to look for that help.

Rep B. Koppelman: If they approach that student as a first responder the idea would be to try to separate that student from the situation that was getting them in that state and call the parents so the parents could direct them to the proper help?

Gail Schauer: It depends on the situation, because you have some kids in a huge crisis and others that might be in a moderate crisis. The youth mental health has an overview to all situations and they walk you through that. All the way from moderate to extreme crisis.

Rep B. Koppelman: What I am trying to ask is, in some point in this process when you identify mental illness at what point do you talk to the parents and get them involved in the treatment?

Gail Schauer: Generally the first responder would refer the student to the office, to the counselor or administrator and from there that decision would be made.

Rep Hunskor: The material from last session, the Jason Flat was free. But now we are getting into mental health indicators, does the Jason Flat material have anything to do with the mental health issue? If not, do the schools have to purchase new material or have someone come in to speak to the teachers? There would be some cost involved and then the schools would have to pick up that cost?

Gail Schauer: The Jason Flat is a suicide prevention training. When we look at the mental health realm suicide prevention can be within that realm. But with mental health it is so much broader. It can include anxiety, psychosis, and substance abuse. We do have a fact sheet that lists 5 or 6 different programs that schools can access. The Jason Flat is free of charge and QPR another training is also free right now. You would have to clarify that with the Department of Health. When you get to the mental health training you would have to look at some programs. We have the Youth Mental Health First Aid program available and we have trainers. We are planning on using that to roll out into the schools and train them with that. We have a bill SB 2048 which we are asking an appropriation to help train the schools. If this got passed we would also look at different options as far as mental health training.

Rep Hunskor: Then you are saying DPI would pick up the cost of these materials and develop a program that the schools could use?

Gail Schauer: We would like too if we have the appropriation for it but at this point I can't say if we can or not. Cost is always an issue.

Rep Meier: With what we passed two years ago was there any reporting requirements?

Gail Schauer: There were no reporting requirements at all.

Chairman Nathe: The original bill last session delved into the suicide risk indicators, now we are delving into mental health issues. Are we asking a lot of our teachers, are we asking too much?

Gail Schauer: I do understand where you are coming from. We need to teach the whole child and emotional wellness is such an important piece. This training is not turning our teachers into counselors it is just making them aware of the signs and symptoms and where to go if something is needed for the student. I feel that is a critical piece for all adults who work with kids to know.

Rep. Olson: You state these trainers will train around the state will now train schools, is this something that is planned whether or not this bill passes?

Gail Schauer: We did plan on rolling it out somehow. We do not know where the money would come from.

Nicole Walford: Resident of Rock Lake ND. In support of SB 2209. Personal story of how she lost her brother to suicide. There were many indicators in high school that could have saved my brother. There is always a fiscal side to these matters but I do want you to consider the worth of a life. I do urge a do pass for SB 2209. (21:50-22:40)

Chairman Nathe: Any other support of SB 2209? Any opposition to SB 2209? Seeing none. Closed the hearing on SB 2209.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2209
3/10/2015
24571

Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Donna W. Heath

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to youth suicide prevention training.

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: reopened the hearing on SB 2209.

Rep Schreiber Beck: The SB 2048 has some fiscal note that I believe relates to this bill, they brought that up and I checked it yesterday. There is a little bit more to it I think.

Chairman Nathe: There is no fiscal note to the bill and we don't have SB 2048 and we may take that up with appropriations.

Rep Kelsh: It may be a cost to the school district but not to the state.

Rep. Olson: In the section titled youth suicide prevention we are currently mandating that the school district shall provide at least 2 hours of PD relating to suicide risk factors. If we add mental health risks we are watering down those 2 hours. They were set aside suicide and not all mental health issues is connected to suicide. I think we should focus on the signs of suicide. She mentioned anxiety and depression and these things are undesirable but they may not be a precursor to suicide. I question the evidence based information that will be put out to the teachers to say here is a warning sign for this and that.

Chairman Nathe: I have the same question. Are we expanding this beyond what we should? Are we putting too much of a burden on the teachers? I am a little uncomfortable with that language myself. My question is that the bill was annually and now it is every two years and I would like to see it annually.

Rep Hunsakor: I think we are talking about a life of a young person and we are talking about mental health and suicide and to me they are connected together. I see no reason why these two could not be trained on together. I see no watering down, to me they run

together. Anything we can do to help prevent a serious crisis with young people we should do. This isn't putting a burden on the teachers. They should know the risk indicators. I would suggest if we asked the teachers would you like to know mental health or suicide risk indicators for kids, they would say of course I want to. We tried to visit with Senator Heckaman to see why the mental health issue so important to be included. It would be nice to hear her perspective. I think this is a very serious issue. I believe we should leave it just the way it is because we are dealing with the life of a young person.

Chairman Nathe: We could hold this off until this afternoon. Senator Heckaman stated the the other addition to the bill adds mental health risk indicators to the wording and the Department will address the rationale for the wording. She put that in there at request of DPI. Gail Schauer's testimony she states "by training staff in mental health as well as suicide prevention we can assure youth are assessed identified and receive the assistance they need sooner. With the development widened to include suicide and mental health this training should be annually."

Rep Hunskor: Could we get more information from Senator Heckaman before we put this out?

Chairman Nathe: Yes, why don't you talk to them.

Rep Kelsh: I am striving to find out where we went from annually to every two years.

Rep. Olson: It is every two years currently in DPI's testimony. But I am struggling with the bill also because it is not struck language but in Gail Schauer's testimony she wanted it amended to do it annually.

Chairman Nathe: I think last session the schools felt it was burdensome to have it every year so we settled on every two years.

Rep Meier: We decided on every two years last session. We felt it was sufficient.

Rep Rohr: I agree that Youth suicide indicators are very important however adding mental health indicators is a big deal. It involves scope of practice and teachers are not educated. We are talking more than just anxiety and depression. We are talking schizophrenia and all kinds of psychiatric and situational types of abnormalities under mental health. I am going to resist the motion to expand this type of training. I don't think they are capable of doing that. Plus there is no mechanism here to contact parents if there is an issue.

Rep Hunskor: If you go into the suicide end of it you can't cover all of the depth of suicide either. It is just you would get some of the indicators out there. At least they would be partially equipped to recognize the indicators.

Rep B. Koppelman: I asked Gail Schauer when the parental involvement would happen. Your idea is being able to identify this student as someone who needs help but when I talked with Miss Schauer her idea is being the first responder, diffusing the situation and figuring out who to contact. I asked her who would she contact and she replied it might be someone in the school. At what point is the parent notified and she did not know. I was

supportive of the suicide indicators and however with the mental health the way Gail Schauer sees it unfolding that the person can be trained to be a first responder and actually diffuse the situation. At best they can say to the parent you may want to have your child checked out for a mental disorder because I just observed this happening. To me what you are saying is It is more of an observation but others think this is an actual interventionist who is going to do something. This would have to be clarified.

Rep Hunskor: I agree with you. If the intent of that is to go into depth than should not be there. The other thing is just the suicide end should it be annually or every two years. I think two years is too long. We are talking about the life of a child. Life is too precious to mess with. If it saves one person it is worth it. Do it annually.

Rep Kelsh: I agree with what Rep Hunskor says. I think mental health part of this is pretty important. The teachers were here and did not stand up and oppose this bill. I would think the school district would report to the parents first. The school cannot help the child internally I think the mental health risks are very important and it should be annual training. If we change that I could support the bill easily.

Rep Meier: I am concerned about broadening the language to include mental health issues if the liability of this. I would be pretty upset as a parent if someone came and was labeling my child as mentally ill if that is not factually true. That is pretty serious. I hope we remove "mental health indicators including".

Rep D. Johnson: Personal story of suicides where his wife taught school. It is a different world out there and is mental health part of that. We are not saying each teacher has to be credentialed to be a mental health worker. There can be an observation that can be passed up through the chain to the principal or whoever is in charge. Some children have no parents involved. I realize legislation addresses all schools but there is unique situations across the state.

Rep. Olson: If we did go to annually someone spoke to the fact that we may need more funding. I spoke with Jon Martinson, School Boards Association, he expressed many reservations to me about piling more onto the teachers. I think he would testify to this negatively. With this idea of mental health risk as defined in this bill can be just if they have anxiety or ADHD. If we want to have teachers diagnosing risk they are becoming recruiters for mental health treatment. Students in our schools are medicated enough. Do we really need to scan for how many more we can refer for diagnosis. I also question what the correlation to increased suicides are to the medications that the kids are taking. I also see antidepressants can increase the risk to suicide, it is on the warning label. I worry about the level to which we are trying to expand mental health in children with teachers. I don't think it is appropriate.

Rep Hunskor: Rep Meier indicated the liability for mental health you also have that liability with suicide in the bill. Don't we have the same liability?

Rep Meier: The one thing we are looking at is expanding that to include mental health risk. We are opening it wide open. Now we are looking at if a student has a behavioral problem

and diagnosing it as a teacher. We are broadening the scope of what we are looking at in this bill.

Rep Schreiber Beck: Statistically in ND suicide is the second leading cause of death between ages 15 and 24. I think I would isolate the bill back to suicide. That is an immediate danger to the life. Mental health issues are in my experience not something that is an immediate risk of taking one's life. I think we should go back only to the suicide.

Rep Zubke: I know we are looking at the students and risk of suicide. When we start talking about mental health indicators also. We also have to understand we have a lot of situations where students have taken other people's lives. So maybe should put those mental health risk indicators in there and let this work its way out a little.

Chairman Nathe: We will give Representative Rep Hunskor more time.

Rep Kelsh: I have a problem with saying we are recruiting for medication or treatment. We are thinking of a life of a child. I think we are protecting children and like Rep Zubke said, sometimes they take someone else's life and those are the people we need to identify and that is why it is important to leave that in there.

Chairman Nathe: Closed the hearing on SB 2209.

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Education Committee
Pioneer Room, State Capitol

SB 2209
3/10/2015
24617

Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

Donna Whitham

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to youth suicide prevention training.

Minutes:

Chairman Nathe: Reopened hearing on 2209

Rep Hunsakor: We talked to Senator Heckaman, she did not have a serious problem with removing the mental health risk indicators from the bill. We did talk about the two years being an annual training. The other portion was the instructional staff and in visiting with her that would be the para-professionals or others who were directly involved in instructing students. That is a new part that was put in here.

Rep Meier: I make a motion to strike "mental health risk indicators including" in the bill on line 9. To amend it out.

Vice Chairman Schatz: seconded.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Rep Hunsakor: I think having training every two years is waiting too long. I think it should be every 1 year. I move to amendment to strike out "two years" and add "annually" on line7.

Rep Mock: I would defer to council for the language. It should read each school district shall provide annual. So that the intent is annual and they get the right language.

Chairman Nathe: We will make sure we get the right verbage.

Rep Looyen: Seconded.

Rep Meier: I am concerned that the fact that in visiting with Jon Martinson, he talked about it placed an unfunded mandate on the districts and now we are adding instructional staff as well. We had passed the two year last session.

Chairman Nathe: If this bill passes the floor we will probably take that up in conference and talk with Mr. Martinson.

Rep Hunskor: I would say even if there is an additional cost whoever is going to take care of it. We again are talking about a life and the suicide rates seem to be increasing in our school and I think it is important to do the training annually.

Rep B. Koppelman: I had looked at the mark up of this bill and they had annually in the original bill. I share the concerns with the expansion. I know Mr. Martinson of the School Board Association had some concerns but not enough to voice opposition to the bill, if we have annually and additional instructional staff combined. I wonder if that might bring him to the point of opposition?

Rep Meier: I agree with Rep Hunskor that if it saves a life it is very important. But I do have the concern with the unfunded mandate on the school districts.

Rep Kelsh: If they get the teachers and administrators together it will not add that much to the cost.

Rep Schreiber Beck: I think what we are trying to accomplish is that anyone in the school district that falls into those categories should at least had some training. It is like when you have new staff coming in so maybe the wording should be to something to the effect that the staff has been trained and leave it up to the district a little.

Rep Zubke: I am not going to oppose the bill, I do have concerns when we attempt to shift these responsibilities onto school districts, teachers and instructional staff. The family knows those individuals better than anyone and should be able to pick up some of those suicide tendencies instead of a teacher whose has that child for 45 minutes in a class.

Chairman Nathe: Any other discussion on the amendment to add the word "annually"?

Voice vote taken, unable to discern the vote.

Chairman Nathe: Let's take a roll call.

A Roll Call Vote was taken. Yes: 7 No: 5 Absent: 1. Motion carried

Rep Looyen: Moved Do Pass as amended on SB 2209.

Rep Hunskor: Seconded.

Chairman Nathe: Any other discussion on SB 2209?

Rep Kelsh: We hear so much about mental health, especially in our young folks but we don't seem to want to do anything about it.

Chairman Nathe: There are huge mental health all over the state, in the youth and in the adults. When you speak to people on my trips out west one of the first issues they mention is the mental health issues.

Rep B. Koppelman: Was there anyone from a school district level who are required to be trained by this suggesting that this was a need for this? Whether it was to be having the suicide training only more often or have more staff members trained?

Chairman Nathe: I don't recall any but I do think last session there was.

Rep Schreiber Beck: In response to Rep Kelsh, there is a bill 2048 in Human Services that has extensive dollars behind mental health issues for youth. I do not know if it passed. That is the bill that has the money behind it too.

Rep Kelsh: Can any of that money be used for identifying students or the training in schools?

Rep Schreiber Beck: It is for youth mental health so somehow it will have to be used. It didn't specify.

A Roll Call Vote was taken. Yes: 9 No: 3 Absent: 1. Motion carried

Rep Hunskor: will carry the bill.

March 10, 2015

82
3/10/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2209

Page 1, line 7, overstrike "Once every two years" and insert immediately thereafter "Annually"

Page 1, line 9, remove "mental health risk indicators, including"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 3/10/15
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2209**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: to strike on line 9 - "mental health indicators including"

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Meier Seconded By Rep. Schatz

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe			Rep. Hunskor		
Vice Chairman Schatz			Rep. Kelsh		
Rep. Dennis Johnson			Rep. Mock		
Rep. B. Koppelman					
Rep. Looyen					
Rep. Meier					
Rep. Olson	✓ <i>voice vote!</i>	✓ <i>voice vote!</i>			
Rep. Rohr					
Rep. Schreiber Beck					
Rep. Zubke					

Total (Yes) _____ No _____

Absent _____

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

Motion Carried

Date: 3/10/15
 Roll Call Vote #: 2

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2209**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: line 7 strike out "once every two years" add "annually"

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Hunskor Seconded By Rep. Looyson

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe			Rep. Hunskor		
Vice Chairman Schatz			Rep. Kelsh		
Rep. Dennis Johnson			Rep. Mock		
Rep. B. Koppelman					
Rep. Looyson					
Rep. Meier					
Rep. Olson					
Rep. Rohr					
Rep. Schreiber Beck					
Rep. Zubke					

Voice Vote!

Total (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Absent _____ unable to discern vote outcome.

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

line seven add "annually" strike "once every two years"

roll call vote taken because the yeas and nays were even.

Date: 3-10-15
 Roll Call Vote #: 3

**2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2209**

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: "strike out" once every two years add "annually"

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar

Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep. Hunskor Seconded By Rep. Looyzen

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe	✓		Rep. Hunskor	✓	
Vice Chairman Schatz	A		Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. B. Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Looyzen	✓				
Rep. Meier		✓			
Rep. Olson		✓			
Rep. Rohr		✓			
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke		✓			

Total (Yes) 7 No 5

Absent 1

Floor Assignment _____

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*line 7 add "annually"
 after striking out
 "once every two years."*

motion carried.

Date: 3-10-15
Roll Call Vote #: 4

2015 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 2209

House Education Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: 15.0771.02001

Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Looyzen Seconded By Rep. Hunskor

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nathe	✓		Rep. Hunskor	✓	
Vice Chairman Schatz	A		Rep. Kelsh	✓	
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓		Rep. Mock	✓	
Rep. B. Koppelman		✓			
Rep. Looyzen	✓				
Rep. Meier	✓				
Rep. Olson		✓			
Rep. Rohr		✓			
Rep. Schreiber Beck	✓				
Rep. Zubke	✓				

Total (Yes) 9 No 3

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep. Hunskor

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2209, as engrossed: Education Committee (Rep. Nathe, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (9 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed SB 2209 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 7, overstrike "Once every two years" and insert immediately thereafter "Annually"

Page 1, line 9, remove "mental health risk indicators, including"

Renumber accordingly

2015 TESTIMONY

SB 2209

#1
1/19/15

SB 2209
January 19, 2015

Chairman Flakoll and Members of the Senate Education Committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman from New Rockford and I serve District 23. I am here this morning to introduce SB 2209 to you.

SB 2209 is another bill I am sponsoring this session that amends a bill passed last legislative session. Last session work was completed by the legislature that provided free access to on line training and supports for suicide prevention through the Jason Flatt Act. That bill provided for 2 hours of training every 2 years for teachers and administrators at the middle and high school levels across the state. You will notice on lines 13 and 14 that the information and training materials are free of charge to our schools through the Jason Foundation. I have been asked to introduce this bill to amend sections of that bill to provide annual training and add other ancillary staff to the requirements. You will hear testimony today that provides support for these changes.

I remember from last session that as schools use the on line materials, students and staff learn warning signs and access support, that the overall suicide rate in Tennessee dropped significantly after a few years. Maybe we won't see a decrease immediately, but the issue is too prevalent in our state. In my own realm of acquaintances, I have had 4 families who lost loved ones to suicide in the last month. Those individuals were all out of school but hopefully North Dakota can see the rates drop as Tennessee has by using these successful programs in our schools over a period of time.

I ask for your support for these amendments and would stand for any questions.

Senator Joan Heckaman

1/1

**Testimony for SB 2209
Relating to Youth Suicide Prevention Training**

Chairman Flakoll, members of the Senate Education Committee, for the record my name is Richard Marcellais, Senator from District 9, Rolette County.

North Dakota's suicide rate has jumped 70% in ten years, with much of the increase coming right out of area high schools and middle schools.

Suicide not kills more than 36,000 Americans each year, one every 15 minutes.

Our state's suicide rate is up 70%, now the second leading cause of death for people ages 10 to 24.

According to the state's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, high school students who have seriously considered suicide have increased from 10 to 16% in the last five years.

And an increase holds steady for those who actually create a plan, then follow through.

Every 40 seconds one person in the United States tries to kill themselves. And here in North Dakota, the latest numbers show 315 high schoolers each month, admit to attempting suicide. That's nearly 3,800 high schoolers every year, a number significantly higher than the national average.

And although more people survive attempts then actually die of suicide, prevention should come first.

That concludes my testimony in support of SB 2209. I will try an answer any questions. Thank You

3
1/19/2015

TESTIMONY ON SB 2209
Senate Education Committee
January 19, 2015

Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools
328.2265 gschauer@nd.gov
Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Flakoll and members of the Senate Education Committee – I am Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). On behalf of the Department, I am here to provide supportive testimony for SB 2209 relating to youth suicide prevention training.

During the 2013 legislative session, SB 2306 was passed which required each school district provide professional development relating to youth suicide prevention to middle school and high school teachers and administrators. Testimony included overwhelming evidence showing how training educators on suicide prevention significantly reduces suicide attempts in youth. SB 2209 extends this law to include mental health training for middle school and high school staff. With the required professional development being widened to include suicide and mental health, this training should be provided annually rather than every other year. The language has also been changed to include all school staff rather than just teachers and administrators. No fiscal note is needed to implement this change.

Through North Dakota (ND) data, we know our children are struggling with mental health issues. The ND Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the ND Suspension/Expulsion/Truancy rates provide a review of our youth's at-risk behaviors. In addition, over the past year the ND Human Services Interim Committee analyzed the needs of youth and adults in our state and Schulte

Consulting, LLC provided a report called Behavioral Health Planning (July 22, 2014). The data and the interim committee's conclusions show a clear need for mental health awareness and services in North Dakota.

National data also demonstrates a need.

- The children, age 12-17, experiencing a mental disorder in any given year falls between 13% and 20%. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005-2011)
- Of those individuals with a lifetime mental illness, fifty percent show signs and symptoms by age 14 (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014).
- Only about one-half of youth with mental illness get the treatment they need. (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014)
- About half of those ages 14 or older with mental illness drop out of high school (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014)
- The cost of mental disorders among persons under the age of 24 was estimated at \$247 billion annually (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005-2011)

Early identification and services are critical. Treatment has been shown to reduce, delay, and sometimes even illuminate the problem (Mental Health: A report of the Surgeon General, 1999).

Since schools are where children spend most of each day, providing school staff with training makes sense.

This spring DPI Safe and Healthy Schools unit will be training a cadre of 25 trainers in a researched-based program called Youth Mental Health First Aid, who will then train school staff around the state. The training includes learning about potential warning signs, risk factors, assessability for screening, procedure for referral and classroom re-entry. This will pave the way

for awareness and strategies to ultimately achieve emotional wellness in our children, schools, communities and state.

By assuring school staff are provided awareness and knowledge on mental health, children with mental health issues are more likely to be referred, identified early and provided services. Our children are our future and they deserve a school and community environment that nurtures emotional wellness. Thank you for your time and support for SB 2209. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

#1
2/4/15

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 2209

P. 1 line 7, remove the overstrike on "Once every two years"

P. 1 line 7 remove "Annually"

P. 1 line 8 after school insert "instructional" immediate thereafter

P. 1 line 9 after "to" insert "mental health risk indicators including"

P 1. Line 9 after the first "indicators" remove "and mental health risk indicators"

Renumber accordingly.

So the bill would read like this:

1. Once every two years, each school district shall provide to middle school and high school instructional staff, teachers, and administrators, at least two hours of professional development relating to mental health risk indicators including youth suicide risk indicators, appropriate responses, and referral sources

SB 2209
March 9, 2015

#1
SB 2209
3/9/15

Chairman Nathe and Members of the House Education Committee:

I am Senator Joan Heckaman from New Rockford and I serve District 23. I am here this morning to introduce SB 2209 to you.

SB 2209 is another bill I am sponsoring this session that amends a bill passed last legislative session. Last session work was completed by the legislature that provided free access to on line training and supports for suicide prevention through the Jason Flatt Act. That bill provided for 2 hours of training every 2 years for teachers and administrators at the middle and high school levels across the state. You will notice on lines 12 and 13 that the information and training materials are free of charge to our schools through the Jason Foundation. There are also other materials available for suicide prevention/awareness training that schools can use.

I was asked to introduce SB 2209 to amend sections of that bill to provide annual training and add other ancillary staff to the requirements. DPI feels it is important to have all staff take this training and the original bill did this. The amended version of SB 2209 takes the requirement back from annually to every two years and returns the wording "instructional" staff instead of all staff. I believe DPI would prefer that the bill be returned to its original version. I would too. Many people touch student's lives each school day and many of them are not instructional staff.

The other addition to the bill adds "mental health risk indicators" to the wording. The department will address their rationale for adding this wording.

I remember from last session we heard as schools use the on line materials as students and staff learn warning signs and access support, the overall suicide rate in Tennessee dropped significantly after a few years. Maybe we won't see a decrease immediately, but the issue of teen suicide is too prevalent in our state. In my own realm of acquaintances, I have had 4 families who lost loved ones to suicide in recent months. Those individuals were all out of school but hopefully North Dakota can see the rates drop as Tennessee has by using these successful programs in our schools over a period of time.

I ask for your support for SB 2209 and would stand for any questions.

Senator Joan Heckaman

#2
SB 2209
3/9/15

TESTIMONY ON SB 2209

House Education Committee

March 9, 2015

Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools

328.2265 gschauer@nd.gov

Department of Public Instruction

Chairman Nathe and members of the House Education Committee – I am Gail Schauer, Assistant Director of Safe and Healthy Schools for the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). On behalf of the Department, I am here to provide supportive testimony for SB 2209 relating to youth suicide prevention training.

During the 2013 legislative session, SB 2306 was passed which required each school district provide professional development relating to youth suicide prevention to middle school and high school teachers and administrators. Testimony included overwhelming evidence showing how training educators on suicide prevention significantly reduces suicide attempts in youth. SB 2209 extends this law to include mental health training for middle school and high school staff. By training staff in mental health as well as suicide prevention, we can assure youth are assessed, identified and receive the assistance they need sooner. With the required professional development being widened to include suicide and mental health, this training should be provided annually rather than every other year. We recommend the language also be changed to include all school staff rather than just teachers and administrators. No fiscal note is needed to implement this change.

Through North Dakota (ND) data, we know our children are struggling with mental health issues. The ND Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the ND Suspension/Expulsion/Truancy rates

provide a review of our youth's at-risk behaviors. In addition, over the past year the ND Human Services Interim Committee analyzed the needs of youth and adults in our state and Schulte Consulting, LLC provided a report called Behavioral Health Planning (July 22, 2014). The data and the interim committee's conclusions show a clear need for mental health awareness and services in North Dakota.

National data also demonstrates a need.

- In any given year about 1 out of 5 children, ages 12-17, experience a mental disorder. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005-2011)
- Fifty percent of those with a lifetime mental illness show signs and symptoms by age 14. (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014).
- Of those youth with mental illness, only about half get the treatment they need. (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014)
- Treatment is effective. (Mental Health: A report of the Surgeon General, 1999)
- About half of those ages 14 or older with mental illness drop out of high school (National Alliance on Mental Illness, 2014)
- The cost of mental disorders among persons under the age of 24 was estimated at \$247 billion annually (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005-2011)

Early identification and services are critical. Treatment has been shown to reduce, delay, and sometimes even illuminate the problem (Mental Health: A report of the Surgeon General, 1999). Since schools are where children spend most of each day, providing school staff with training makes sense.

Recently DPI Safe and Healthy Schools unit trained a cadre of trainers in a researched-based program called Youth Mental Health First Aid. This cadre of trainers will now train school staff



around the state. The training includes learning about potential warning signs, risk factors, assessability for screening, procedure for referral and classroom re-entry. This will pave the way for awareness and strategies to ultimately achieve emotional wellness in our children, schools, communities and state.

By assuring school staff are provided awareness and knowledge on mental health, children with mental health issues are more likely to be referred, identified early and provided services. Our children are our future and they deserve a school and community environment that nurtures emotional wellness. Thank you for your time and support for SB 2209. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.