Youth Suicide... A “Silent Epidemic”
Jason’s Story...the beginning of The Jason Foundation

Jason C. Flatt
Youth Suicide and its Impact on our Nation

- Suicide is now the 2nd leading cause of death for our nation’s youth ages 10-24.
- Specifically for our middle and high school youth ages 12-18, Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death.
- In 2017, Suicide became the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-14 in our nation.
When young people were asked in US:

- “Have you experienced the feeling of hopelessness and sadness for a constant period of two weeks or greater during the past twelve months (possible beginning of clinical depression)?”

- 31.5% or almost 1 out of every 3 young people (depression is a leading cause of suicide)

- This equates to 4,725,182 youth in the U.S. that will have these feelings in the next 12 months if nothing is done differently.
Center for Disease Control 2017 YRBS

“Have you seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months?”

- **17.2%** answered YES or over 1 out of every 6 young people.
- This equates to 2,580,099 youth in the U.S. that will consider suicide in the next 12 months *if nothing is done differently.*
Center for Disease Control 2017 YRBS

“Have you attempted suicide in the past twelve months?”

- 7.4% answered YES or over 1 out of every 14 young people.

- This equates to 1,110,042 youth in the U.S. that will make an attempt in the next 12 months if nothing is done differently.

- This is an average of 3,041 per day.
But “What can we do?”...Suicide is so Impulsive

Four out of Five young people will demonstrate clear “warning signs” before attempting suicide....

Suicide is not only a leading cause of death...it is a leading cause of PREVENTABLE death.
The Jason Foundation, since 1997, has never charged for any of its programs or resources.

The foundation for Prevention is Awareness and Education

- School-Based Curriculum for Students
- Parent / Community Seminars
- First Responders Training – Police / Fire
- In-Service / Professional Development Training for Educators
Jason Flatt Act

First passed in Tennessee in 2007.

It became the model legislation for including training for educators in youth suicide prevention...NOT to make them counselors, but to be better able to recognize and assist at-risk youth.
How Can You as your state’s AG help?

General Paul Summers (retired) –
Former Attorney General for the
State of Tennessee and former Senior
Judge TN.

Director of Corporate & Government
Affairs - The Jason Foundation
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To find out more how you can help....

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