

Senator McGill Brings Suicide Prevention and Awareness to the Forefront

LINCOLN, NE - Senator McGill remains resolute in her focus on the mental and behavioral health needs of youth in Nebraska by introducing LB 923, a bill requiring training on suicide awareness and prevention for school personnel. "LB 923 is part of a greater conversation we need to have about mental health in Nebraska," said Sen. McGill.

There are children facing depression and thoughts of suicide every day in our communities.

According to data from the 2011 YRBS (Youth Risk Behavioral Survey) published in the [2013 Kids Count in Nebraska Report](#), approximately **1 in 7 of the Nebraska students surveyed "seriously considered suicide"**. Even more troubling, approximately 1 in 10 youth actually had a suicide plan.

"After the loss of my sixteen-year old sister, Amanda, to suicide, I joined American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Field Advocacy Program because I wanted to spread awareness and reduce stigmas commonly associated with mental illness," said Amie Nelson. "Through the collaboration of AFSP, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska, and Senator McGill's office, I believe this legislation will have a powerful impact saving lives in our community."

LB 923:

- Calls for The Nebraska Department of Education to work with behavioral health experts and suicide prevention organizations to develop suicide prevention and awareness training for teachers, administrators, school nurses, and other appropriate personnel.
- One hour of training would be provided within the current framework of existing in-service training programs.

"I've talked with teachers in my community and I respect their dedication to educating our youth. LB 923 builds on the knowledge and tools our educators use every day," said Sen. McGill.