

LB923 Bill Overview

Bill History

Introduced by: Sen. Amanda McGill

Heard by: Education Committee

Summary

LB923 would require that each school district provide at least one-hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each school year for all public school nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, and administrators.

Talking Points

For

- While factors including biological, psychological and historical are an important part of determining risk, one-third of youths who die by suicide had faced a crisis within the past 24 hours.
- According to the 2013 Kids Count in Nebraska report, 1 in 7 Nebraska students surveyed had seriously considered suicide and 1 in 10 had a suicide plan. Schools do have a role in helping to prevent the tragic loss of young lives.
- Teachers and other school personnel are invaluable to our community; 9 months or more out of every year they spend anywhere from 8, 12, or more hours a day building relationships with our children. They are in a prime position to help recognize the signs that students may be at risk and to refer that student for help.

Against

- If a teacher or other school personnel fails to recognize a student in distress, what is to keep that student's family from suing the school and staff?
 - One hour of training each school year is hardly sufficient to teach school staff how to handle very serious mental health issues. Nor can we expect staff members to be completely prepared to handle these situations on one hour of training only.
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Further Research

Nebraska Legislature: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Unicameral Update: <http://update.legislature.ne.gov/>

Agriculture Committee: <http://news.legislature.ne.gov/edu/>

Committee Statement: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/CS/LB923.pdf>

