

# PUBLIC POLICY BRIEFS

SISTERS *of* CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM



## **Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2021 or the STANDUP Act of 2021**

### **Issue Overview**

Research shows that in the past decade or so, the rate of suicide for children ages 10-14 has increased by 187%. Suicide is the number one cause of death for people under age 35, discounting accidents. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have seen an increase in mental health issues and awareness. Overall, the population of youths who commit suicide has grown significantly in recent years. The increase in this rate has allowed space for the question of if there are programs in place that allow for the correct detection and treatment of mental health issues in the youth population.

Further, the Black youth suicide rates have significantly increased in the past decade. In part, this has to do with the more recent incidents of police brutality, but much of this has to do with lack of access to mental health care.

Though there has been an increase of awareness surrounding mental health, there is a real need within the youth population of America for increased access to mental health care. The House of Representatives have set a bill into motion regarding awareness on student suicide. The details of that bill are outlined below.

### **House of Representatives Bill H.R. 586**

#### **Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2021 or the STANDUP Act of 2021**

This bill seeks to amend the Public Health Service Act in order to provide the best practices and training on student suicide awareness. This bill also allows for the establishment and implementation of school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes and implements a program within schools that allows students to receive resources and awareness to a growing issue</li> <li>• Allows for several areas of knowledge surrounding mental health and suicide prevention including substance misuse, abuse, and other risk factors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There could be exposure to the reality of suicide to students who are too young, it could be a scary or traumatic experience</li> <li>• The training likely will not be implemented in all communities, so there will be some communities missing out</li> </ul>

**Current Status**

This bill was passed by the House of Representatives on May 12, 2021. The bill is waiting further approval and implementation in the Senate.

*What does this mean for us at The Sisters of Charity Health System?*

At Sisters of Charity, we aim to provide the best care for everyone in our community. That includes extending our hand those who are marginalized in our society. With more suicide awareness, we are contributing to the effort that ends this tragedy for families and communities. We employ a 24/7 emergency department that is dedicated to psychiatric emergencies. We see the effect that suicide has on a community, and we want to work to educate the right population in an effort of prevention.

*What does this mean for you, your family, or your community?*

Even if you have not had an experience with knowing someone that committed suicide from a young age, it is reported that around 20% of Cleveland school district students have reported a suicide attempt. With such a large issue, we should do all we can to ensure the safety of these children and the correct treatment for mental health.