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June 11, 2019

Dear Senators Kennedy and Jones, and Representatives Correa, and Stewart:

On behalf of the students, families, and universities with whom we work, thank you for your leadership on suicide prevention. As a national nonprofit leader for young adult mental health advocacy and suicide prevention, Active Minds supports, appreciates, and thanks you for your efforts to promote access to lifesaving suicide prevention resources, including the "Improving Mental Health Access for Students Act."

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among college students, and two-thirds of students with anxiety or depression don't seek treatment. The recent data released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) citing increased suicides in our country, and the prevalent mental health struggles we see play out in our communities daily, underscore the extraordinary need for access to crisis intervention support and suicide prevention resources.

The proposed legislation echoes what we have heard our students advocate for on their campuses in recent years. Active Minds offers resources to support students, colleges and universities in their efforts to add mental health and suicide prevention crisis numbers to student ID cards and have seen the effect this seemingly simple change can have. We look forward to working side by side with you to continue fighting this battle.

Active Minds has a presence on over 700 colleges, universities, and high schools nationwide powered by our chapter network, Send Silence Packing® exhibit, and our Active Minds Speakers. The organization is dedicated to supporting a new generation in ending the silence and changing the conversation about mental health for everyone.

Please let us know if there is any additional support we can provide to your office to move this important piece of legislation forward. We cannot thank you enough for your efforts to prevent suicide and support young adults across the country.

Respectfully,

Alison Malmon
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