

New form submission

[YSPTF Testimony Form](#)

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Full Name	Bonnie Swade
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Meeting at which you wish to testify:	Written Testimony Only
What hurdles have you experienced and/or lessons learned through your efforts?	Since losing our son to suicide (he wasn't a teen) but a loss is a loss! I have found that many people think it could not happen to them. Suicide knows no age, demographic, financial, or religious status. Educating our teens is most important and not to be afraid to talk about suicide to them. After all, suicide should be everyone's business!
What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?	We have talked with teachers and others who have a connection to teens. We also have been at many conferences where we have set up a table of resources. I am on the leadership team for Johnson County Suicide Prevention Coalition. That organization just received a grant for suicide education in schools.
Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:	Education is the key to reduce teen suicide. Educating school personnel is critical. Not only the teachers, lunch personnel, bus drivers, and crossing guards is critical but anyone working with teens.
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