



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

August 3, 2022

To New Hampshire's Educational Community,

I recently signed into law Senate Bill 234, a bill requiring student identification cards for public schools and institutions of higher education to include the telephone number for the suicide prevention lifeline. This bill will provide an on the spot reference for students who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

When someone is in the midst of a mental health crisis, it often goes unseen and can be isolating and feel hopeless. Immediate access to someone to talk to can make the difference between a good outcome and one that is tragic.

Sadly, data shows that our nation's youth are experiencing some of the most emotionally difficult years of their lives. In fact, a recent CDC study found that the national suicide rate for people between the ages of 10 and 24 increased by 57% between 2007 to 2018¹. Alarmingly, suicide is the second leading cause of death in young people aged 10-34.

It is with urgency that I ask for your leadership by making implementation of this legislation an immediate priority in your school system. If it saves even one life, it will be worth it. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chituh T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

enclosure

¹ State Suicide Rates Among Adolescents and Young Adults Aged 10-24: United States, 2000-2018. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr69/nvsr-69-11-508.pdf>

SB 234 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two

AN ACT requiring student identification cards to include the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 Short Title. This act shall be known as the Jason Dickey Suicide Prevention Act.
 2 New Section; Suicide Prevention; Public School Identification Cards. Amend RSA 193-J by
 3 inserting after section 2 the following new section:
 4 193-J:2-a Public School Identification Cards.
 5 I. Each school district and chartered public school that serves any students in grades 6
 6 through 12 that issues student identification cards shall include on either side of the cards the
 7 telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
 8 II. The requirement in paragraph I shall apply to any student identification card issued for
 9 the first time or for replacement cards issued for damaged or lost student identification cards after
 10 the effective date of this section.
 11 III. Public schools and charter schools issuing student identification cards pursuant to this
 12 section shall annually and prior to the start of each school year certify to their respective governing
 13 bodies that the contact information being included on student identification cards for the National
 14 Suicide Prevention Lifeline is accurate and up to date.
 15 IV. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline shall be labeled on student identification cards
 16 and include the telephone number: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or 988.
 17 3 New Chapter; Suicide Prevention in Higher Education. Amend RSA by inserting after chapter
 18 188-H the following new chapter:

CHAPTER 188-I

SUICIDE PREVENTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

188-I:1 Student Identification Cards.

22 I. Each institution of higher education shall adopt a policy implementing the requirement
 23 that student identification cards shall include on either side of the cards the telephone number for
 24 the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
 25 II. The requirement in paragraph I shall apply to any student identification card issued for
 26 the first time or for replacement cards issued for damaged or lost student identification cards after
 27 the effective date of this section.
 28 III. Public and private institutions of higher learning that issue student identification cards,
 29 including the institutions of the university system of New Hampshire, the community college

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1 system, and private higher education institutions regulated by the higher education commission
2 under RSA 21-N:8-a, II, shall comply with the requirement in paragraph I by including on either
3 side of the student identification cards the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention
4 Lifeline.

5 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 31, 2022.