

☞ **07hr_sb0493_SC-Ed_pt01**



Details: Public Hearing – February 21, 2008

(FORM UPDATED: 07/12/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

2007-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on ... Education (SC-Ed)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**
- Record of Comm. Proceedings ... **RCP**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt**
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule**
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution)
 - (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

9MB

Vote Record Committee on Education

Date: 3/6/08

Moved by: Kreitlow Seconded by: Hansen

AB _____ SB 493 Clearinghouse Rule _____
 AJR _____ SJR _____ Appointment _____
 AR _____ SR _____ Other _____

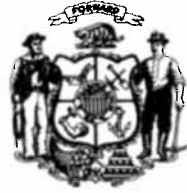
A/S Amdt _____
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Be recommended for:
 Passage Adoption Confirmation Concurrence Indefinite Postponement
 Introduction Rejection Tabling Nonconcurrence

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Not Voting</u>
Senator John Lehman, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Jon Erpenbach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator David Hansen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Pat Kreitlow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Luther Olsen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Glenn Grothman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senator Mary Lazich	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	_____	_____

Motion Carried Motion Failed





TERRY VAN AKKEREN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY SIXTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

February 21, 2008

Members of the Senate Education Committee,

I would like to thank you for scheduling a hearing today on Senate Bill 493. I appreciate the committee's dedication to such an important issue.

Derek Piaskowski was a 17 year old junior at Sheboygan North High School when he tragically took his life in 2002. Senate Bill 493 is intended to help prevent similar situations like the one that Derek faced.

Teen suicide is a serious problem that continues to affect our nation's youth. According to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) most recent data (2003-2004), the suicide rate for 10 to 24 year olds increased by 8 percent, the largest single year increase in 15 years. Wisconsin has the 8th highest rate of youth suicide according to the same CDC study (over a 4 year period ending in 2003). Youth suicide is the second leading cause of death in Wisconsin behind motor vehicle accidents.

Fortunately, if identified early, severe depression and suicidal behavior can be effectively treated, and many people can quickly begin to feel relief. Parents play an important role in early detection of the threat of suicide. Teachers and educational staff, who interact with their students on a daily basis for a large portion of the year, are also major players in the recognition of suicidal tendencies.

Currently, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required by state law to compile information on suicide prevention and create training programs that are available to all professional educational staff. The information organized by DPI, however, is not reaching nearly enough staff members, and many are not aware that DPI can provide them with this free resource. Senate Bill 493 would work with schools and school districts, both public and private, to ensure that all staff receive annual notice of the information that is available to them through DPI.

As youth suicide statistics continue to reflect the nation's struggle with depression and its side effects, it is clear that action is needed to correct the trend. By informing our state's educators and staff of the well developed and useful material DPI has created, we are ensuring Wisconsin is doing its part to fight the current upward trend in youth suicide. Awareness is a valuable asset in working to counter this silent killer.

Once again, I would like to thank Chairman Lehman and the Senate Committee on Education for scheduling a hearing on Senate Bill 493.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Van Akkeren".

Terry Van Akkeren
State Representative
26th Assembly District





Wisconsin State Senate

John Lehman

Senator – 21st District

State Capitol • PO Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882 • (608) 266-1832 • Toll-free: 1-866-615-7510

**TESTIMONY OF SENATOR JOHN LEHMAN
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
February 21, 2008 – PUBLIC HEARING
SENATE BILL 493**

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony on Senate Bill 493, which would provide public and private schools easier access to suicide prevention materials.

Teen suicide is a problem that continues to plague our nation's youth. The devastating loss of life from teen suicide's affects everyone around the student-- their family, friends, classmates, teachers, and community.

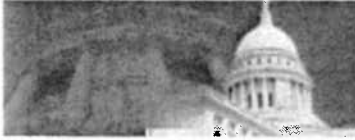
After many years of declining teen suicide numbers, we are now seeing an upward trend. Wisconsin is acutely feeling the effects of this increase, as it has the 8th highest rate of teen suicide in the country.

SB-493 is a common-sense, bipartisan bill that is designed to raise awareness of resources without putting undue burden on school boards or DPI.

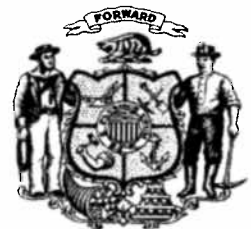
The Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Family Services have already collaborated to develop informative suicide prevention materials. However in many cases, this information is not being circulated effectively. Many teachers do not know it exists.

Families play a large part in spotting signs of suicidal tendencies. But because students spend much of their time in school, it makes sense for teachers and other school personnel to have the tools to recognize warning signs. Teachers who have more practical information on teen suicide will be more effective in preventing it.

I strongly urge you to support SB-493. Teachers who have the tools to prevent suicide can save lives.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Date?

**Testimony to Senate Committee on Education
SB 493**

**Shel Gross, Director of Public Policy
Mental Health America of Wisconsin
(formerly the Mental Health Association)**

Mental Health American of Wisconsin (MHA) has been working on youth suicide prevention since about 2002:

- MHA was part of the group that developed the Wisconsin Suicide Prevention Strategy, which was released by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) in 2002.
- MHA was an original member of the Suicide Prevention Initiative, which is a public-private coalition to promote the implementation of the Strategy. I currently serve as one of the co-chairs of this coalition.
- Beginning in 2004 the DHFS directed MHA to prioritize youth suicide prevention under a grant that the DHFS had provided to MHA for prevention/early intervention of mental disorders. We worked closely with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to award grants to schools who had received DPI training on youth suicide prevention to allow them to implement evidence-based suicide prevention programs.
- In 2006 MHA was awarded a \$1.1 million federal youth suicide prevention grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This grant allowed us to provide subgrants to additional school and community coalitions to implement youth suicide prevention efforts. It has also allowed us to create a variety of other materials of general use to schools and communities interested in addressing youth suicide.

You can view our suicide prevention resources at:

<http://www.mhawisconsin.org/content/youthsuicideresourcesbestpractices.asp>

According to Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) most recent data, the suicide rate for 10 to 24 year olds increased by 8 percent between 2003-2004, the largest single year increase in 15 years. Wisconsin has the 8th highest rate of youth suicide according to the same CDC study (over a 4 year period ending in 2003). Suicide is currently the second leading cause of death for youth under 24 in Wisconsin behind motor vehicle accidents and well above cancers and homicide.

However, recent data from the DPI's Youth Risk Behavior Survey suggests downward trends in youth thinking seriously about suicide and a suggestion of a reduction in attempts (although this is not statistically significant). This data suggests that long term efforts by DPI to educate schools and the work that MHA and others has been able to do may be starting to impact this issue. DPI has created a wide variety of materials for schools, including trainings and curricula that can be used to address youth suicide.

www.mhawisconsin.org

While there is now this wealth of information available to support school efforts to address youth suicide, it is not being widely communicated to school staff. This is a shame. AB493 would have school districts, both public and private, ensure that all staff receive notice of the information that is available to them through DPI and other sources, such as the MHA.

I urge you to support this legislation. Thank you.