

Dear Members of the Higher Education Committee,

My name is Cami Jackson, and I am a student at Ohio University. Today I want to share with you something I've realized after attending a public university in Ohio. On September 5th, I received a heartbreaking alert from our Dean of Students. This email explained how there was an incident that resulted in a fellow student taking his own life. Little did I know, this wouldn't be the last time I would receive an email like this during my first year. Everytime the Dean of Students sent out this type of alert, there would be resources attached about getting help. Yet these resources were always given too late to those in need. So today I ask you, please consider allocating funds for mental health resources to public universities. Those students could have had the rest of their lives to succeed and contribute to our community, but instead ended their lives too early. Personally, these deaths have impacted me substantially, and I truly worry about my fellow peers who may be struggling in silence. If there is only one thing you take from my experience, I hope you remember that there are young adults suffering without resources all over the country. You have the power as the Higher Education Committee, to help curve the suicide rates of Ohio students.

Thank you,

Cami Jackson.