



Lorain County Early College High School
1005 N. Abbe Rd PS 106
Elyria, Oh 44035

February 17, 2020

RE: Support of SB 126

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Lorain County Early College High School. We support Senate Bill 126, specifically the proposed language changes that will expand Ohio Revised Code 5122.04 to include children under age 14, who are now dying by suicide at double the rate they did a decade ago, according to information from The Jason Foundation. (<http://jasonfoundation.com/youth-suicide/facts-stats/>). Our team of School Counselors, Educators, and Administration supports expanding Ohio Revised Code 5122.04 to allow for children younger than 14 who may be suicidal to receive a crisis risk assessment, even if parents are not immediately available to provide consent. The proposed update keeps the important language for youth ages 14 and older, and also allows for a crisis assessment for younger children when there is evidence that the child may be suicidal. The child's safety and well-being can be assessed by a professional while the professional continues to make a good-faith effort to connect with the parent or guardian. Suicide is now the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10-14. A report released in November from the Ohio Department of Health showed that suicide deaths increased by 56% among Ohio youth ages 10-24 between 2007-2018, and is the leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 10-14 and the second leading cause of death among Ohioans ages 15-34. (<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/media-center/odh-news-releases/ohio-suicide-demographics-trends-report>) We cannot wait to respond to a child in crisis. Also, Ohio cannot wait to address a trend of younger people dying by suicide.

Thank you for the opportunity to help this proposal become reality, and for your good work to support the mental health of children!

Brenda C. Owens-Ryder, M.Ed., LPSC | School Counselor & College Transition Advisor, Early College High School Division

Lorain County Community College | 1005 N Abbe Road | Elyria, Ohio 44035

t: 440.366.4734 e: bowens@lorainccc.edu

www.lorainccc.edu

Vision 2020: We are the Community's College!

