



For Immediate Release: May 9, 2019

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**- MEDIA ALERT -**

**Child Mental Health Advocates Team Up to Tackle Growing Youth Suicide Epidemic**

**NATIONAL TIE-IN: Number of children and teens in the U.S. who visited ERs for suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts doubled between 2007 and 2015** Source: [JAMA Pediatrics](#)

Atlanta, Ga. – The state’s top child health experts, along with child advocates, will converge on the Capitol for Children’s Mental Health Day 2019, **Thursday, May 9, 2019** from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The event will begin at the Georgia Freight Depot.

Hosted by the Georgia Parent Support Network and Voices for Georgia’s Children, leaders, advocates and the public will rally to better the growing youth mental health crisis in our state. Suicide is the #2 cause of death for teenagers in Georgia. Preliminary data from 2018 shows the epidemic is getting worse: the reported number of 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders attempting suicide skyrocketed 45.6% between 2017 and 2018.\*

	2017	2018
Attempted Suicide	25,758	<b>37,508</b>
Considered Suicide	58,583	<b>78,969</b>

*\*Source: Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Child Fatality Review*

Voices’ Executive Director, Dr. Erica Fener Sitkoff, will moderate a roundtable discussion on children’s mental health and suicide prevention training.

We hope you will join us as we work to end the stigma surrounding mental health, and tackle this growing epidemic of youth suicide in our state.

You can find more information on youth suicide in our state on our factsheet: [Youth Suicide in Georgia](#).