

Action Alert

State Edition

House Bill 520: **2023 Mental Health Bill**

Call members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and ask them to take a vote on [House Bill 520](#) **TODAY**.

What's in the Bill:

[House Bill 520](#) is legislation encompassing many of the recommendations of the 2022 report by the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission. It is the next step in improving behavioral health protocols, services, and workforce for children and adults in the state.

Why is House Bill 520 Important?

- Suicide was the **third leading cause of death** for Georgia children aged 5-17 in 2021.
- The number of children in Georgia who visited emergency rooms for reasons related to suicide nearly **tripled** between 2008 and 2021.
- **73,000** Georgia students grades 6-12 reported having seriously considered harming themselves in 2022.
- **43,905** Georgia students grades 6-12 reported having harmed themselves in 2022.

Learn More:

- Check out our factsheet on the [Crisis in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health](#).
- Check out our factsheet on [Youth Suicide in Georgia](#).

What to Say (CALLING WORKS BEST!):

Dear Senator _____:

Please take a vote on House Bill 520 **TODAY**. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for Georgia's children ages 5-17, and the number of children in Georgia who visited emergency rooms for reasons related to suicide nearly tripled between 2008 and 2021. Our families and the children in them are counting on you to help them with this bill. Thank you for your service and for all you do for Georgia's children.

Who to Contact:

[Senate Health and Human Services Committee](#)