

Kansas Legislators,

My son, (Max-Forever 21), died in April after getting texts, unprovoked, to kill himself. Encouraging him over and over until he did. He had already been struggling with suicidal thinking, so receiving these texts was all it took to push him over. Yes, the people behind the texts did know and understand that he was suicidal. This is not against the law in Kansas...yet. That is where you come in, if you will set the proposed law into effect, what happened to my son will become a level seven felony. Additionally, it will be a misdemeanor, if someone only sends messages like that, even if the person receiving the message does not attempt or commit suicide, the messages alone will be a misdemeanor.

Passing this law will send a clear message to those cruel people who seek to destroy from behind the safety of their screen...if you come for our children, we are coming for you.

This law change would be historic, as very few states have adopted such a law. Isn't it time Kansas took the lead on such an important issue?

Let me be clear, I am not trying to put people in jail. That is not the sign of success, the sign of success is that these situations cease to exist, and no one is ever convicted of this crime in Kansas.

The people who are behind Max's situation will have zero consequences; this will not be retroactive. I do not want to put people in jail, I want to prevent this type of messaging from happening again. This is all about prevention, not revenge. We need deeper conversations around the dinner tables of Kansas families about the consequences of taking actions like this. Only then will there be change. I am praying that this law, much like drunk driving and other preventative laws, can have a positive effect on behavior.

Here are some hard facts about gaps in Kansas law related to suicide and why it's time to take even deeper action:

- There is no law that holds individuals accountable for urging another to commit suicide. In Kansas today, you must either provide the physical means or participate in the act to be held accountable.
- There is no law that excuses absences from school due to mental/emotional distress in grades K-12. You are easily excused when physically ill, but there is no accommodation for mental illness or severe emotional distress.
- There is no law that requires suicide prevention education in Kansas schools. Meanwhile, sex education is required by law.
- While some mental health or medical professionals may obtain training in suicide assessments, treatment, and management, there is no law requiring this training.

I've always procrastinated on things that seem scary to start. It's hard to start writing about Max because I miss him so much and it's hard to make peace with the fact that he isn't here. I talk about him so often it's like he is still here.

Max impacted me and my life more than I realized while he was doing it. He gave me confidence in who I am, he helped me realize that life is what you make of it, he made me feel special unlike many others could. I'll never be able to repay Max for what he's done for me and that hurts me to the core. I think about the day we lost him so often and things that I could have done differently. When I found out he was encouraged to follow through with suicide my heart broke even more. That's something someone should never ever be told no matter the circumstances. I wish I had just randomly surprised Max that night somehow and hung out with him and just talked about the most stupid stuff we could think of because that's just what we did. I wish I could have told him I loved him again and he wouldn't have listened to the demons in his head and the demons coming from others.

Max was everything a person should be like and more. The world would be a better place if everyone had a little Max in them and the world became a worse place on April 14. I love him and miss him intensely. As a baseball player I'm always conflicted when rain is coming towards the field... do I wanna play the game? Or do I wanna say what's up to Max? Baseball players typically wish away rain. But the answer from me is always hanging out with Max in the rain.

I spend my days working to be half the man Max was. I have written on all of my baseball hats "Live to the Max" and look at it before I pitch to be reminded of the difference Max made in my life and how I want to live the same way he did. Unashamed of who he was, always lighthearted, and always did everything to the max.

Aaron G

Representative Hoheisel,

I am writing with a heavy heart, as the world lost a beautiful soul. I have kept up with social media as this tragedy has unfolded from Max's mother, Jill Janes. Jill was my former Vice President of Sales and I worked under her leadership for two and a half years. The passion, love, and exuberance she shows is unmatched. I have watched her diligently juggle being a vice president, an advocate for seniors, a wife and most importantly, a mom. I never met Max but from the love that showed in her eyes when she spoke of him, I felt I did.

Losing a loved one is never easy. Losing a loved one to suicide, I feel, a lot of souls are hurt. Those remaining are left to question if they could have done anything different with no definite answer; never comprehending it all. Their souls are changed and lost forever. July 2022, I lost my uncle in a motorcycle accident. It was unexpected and our hearts broke. I will never forget the phone call. At the funeral, I was able to catch up with my uncle's stepson, Christopher. We briefly made small talk about life, work, and the future. Less than 30 days after the funeral, Christopher committed suicide in the Sam Houston National Forest. I will never forget reading about it as officials worked to find him. Unbeknownst, I had taken the last photo of him and his mother. I will never forget it. As Jill Janes posted April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, "life will forever be divided by the date" and sadly, it is something we can all relate to.

Mr. Hoheisel, I believe in a lot of things. I believe in God. I believe family is important and I believe everything happens for a reason. With that said, as I write, the song by Don Mclean, "Vincent" started playing. I encourage you to listen to this song and the lyrics:

*Now, I understand, what you tried to say to me*

*How you suffered for your sanity*

*How you tried to set them free*

*They would not listen, they did not know how*

*Perhaps they'll listen now.*

Hello. I'm 19 years old. I did not know max but as a young adult I'd like to share my statement. I have been dealing with mental health issues most of my life. My grandma passed away when I was 7. My grandpa and dad passed away within the same year when I was 11. I suffer from BPD. Which is borderline personality disorder. Which contains very fast shifting moods, favorite person, SI, SH, anxiety and more. Going through high school was not easy. If it wasn't the people in my school that made it hard it was teachers. No matter how many posters are put up. No matter how many counselors come to the classrooms to visit. No matter what is done some people will never get it. In a very weird way I compare mental issues to drugs and addiction. People won't ever understand what it's like until it happens to them. And a lot of addicts do not admit to their addictions as like a lot of people struggling with mental issues do not admit to them because they are worried about being labeled as "crazy" or "sick in the head". There is so much of a stigma around mental health that now people make jokes about it. I remember staying up in my car at 2am on the phone with the suicide hotline crying every single night for 3 months straight. On the brink of giving up. One single word or action someone could of done to me would of been the tipping point. I would never and will never treat someone less than I expect to be treated. Nobody knows what someone is going through and one tiny thing can set off a minefield. I've been on several different medications. But no matter how much therapy, medication, calling someone does if the problem is still there it's never going to leave. I was missing class because of my mental health to the point I didn't graduate. I didn't want to be seen in school or around people in public. I ended up gaining the strength and going back to online school and I got my diploma. Not only did students and peers fail me. But so did counselors and teachers. Who am I suppose to rely on when even adults don't take it seriously. Teens are already stressed about school life but they also have jobs, family, friends, free time, time to relax etc. a brain is like a clock. If it runs and runs 24/7 and is pushed to the max it's going to break. Mental health is a battle between yourself and others. People at our age know the words that come out of their mouth and they know their actions. If I push someone off a bridge on purpose will I be charged? Probably. It's no different from pushing someone to the edge of their mental state. One life lost is another one too many. Not sure if my statement will do anything but my goal is to help others.

Andrew Darland

Max was a one of a kind person, anyone who knew him could tell you that. He was special, genuine, loyal, honest, and the funniest person I knew. He would light up any room he walked into and always knew how to make everyone laugh. He always included everyone, even the people he didn't know. He was such a great friend and person to everyone around him. If I ever needed help with anything he was there for me. I never felt afraid to be 100% myself around him and I think that's because he was always himself no matter what, where, or who he was with. Max was there for some of the funniest times of my life and I'm so thankful for the memories that I have with him. He was too good for this world and I will forever miss him.

When I heard the news about Max's passing I couldn't believe it, I was shocked. This was the most unexpected thing to ever happen. I knew he was sad about a breakup but never thought it would end up like this. It hurts to know that if Max didn't receive those disgusting messages that he would still be here. I'm deeply saddened by how they could treat Max and kick him while he was already down. It upsets me that he didn't receive the love he gave or deserved. He did not deserve to be treated the way he did. The fact this isn't a crime in Kansas is infuriating. Especially since in today's society everyone is on their phones all the time. So many people are chronically online and 75% of people are addicted to their phones. This generation grew up using technology so why is there not a law in place for cases with a cyber influence? We need to start holding people accountable for their actions so in the future people aren't so stupid with their words and think twice before sending anything harmful that could potentially end with death. We can save lives. We need a change, Max deserves better.

Audrey Robbins

To Those Whom I Hope Will Choose to Make a Difference:

My name is Autumn DeNayer. Max was/is my son's, Dakota Crane, best friend. Max was a funny and caring young man. I can still remember when one of their other friends got hurt, had been unconscious on the soccer field at a high school game, and my son was very upset and concerned. He asked me if I would take him to the hospital to wait for news on this friend, and then also asked me if I would pick up Max first. Both boys were beside themselves with worry and wanted to be there for their friend and his family, so we went. We sat there for hours and talked while waiting for news on their friend. This is one of many examples of how much Max cared about others, and how he was not only there for them but also showed up for them.

Max's death has been devastating. My son will never be the same. His best friend will not be around to experience life's big events. Max will never get engaged, get married, have children, and so many other important events that he should have experienced will never happen. He will always be the person missing from his family and friends' big events in their lives, and they WILL feel it. My heart breaks for Max, for the pain he went through, and for his family. I cry every time I think of his mother having to deal with the huge loss. The rest of her life will forever be divided by before his death, and after his death.

The weeks following Max's death were filled with tears and sadness. I have had to watch my own son grapple with coming to terms that his best friend is gone. I cry when he says he no longer has a friend to call when something big happens in his life. I, too, lost a friend at a young age and know that while the pain and loss change, they never completely go away. Instead, one is left with a lifetime of what ifs and other questions.

The days of saying kids are just being kids needs to end, and we need to make sure that others understand the seriousness of urging and/or encouraging others to take their life by suicide. We have become a nation/culture that takes no responsibility for our actions. Our culture/nation is teaching young people that they can do and say anything without any consequences. This needs to stop! Please work to ensure that this no longer happens in Kansas.

Sincerely,

Autumn DeNayer

I knew Max since elementary school, but we really didn't become good friends until freshman year of high school. We spent countless hours together at school, playing Xbox, working together, and so much more. You always knew when he was in a room because he was never afraid to be himself and speak his mind. That's just one thing that I always admired about him and wish I got the chance to tell him in person. He was one of the most accepting, kind, hilarious, and real people I've ever met. It is truly a travesty that there is no accountability for the behavior and heartless act that led to the loss of such a beautiful soul. My heart goes out to him and all his loved ones, and I hope for a day where this sort of encouragement is considered a serious offense. I will never forget the positive impact he had on my life and the lives of so many others, and I hope that we can see actual change in his honor.

Ben Sherwood

Although I wasn't extremely close to Max, his choice to take his life has impacted me. I got the privilege to play football with Max in high school, and also spend some time with him outside of school. Max was always an amazing person who would go out of his way for anyone. Once Max graduated I would go months without seeing max, but when I did, it always came with a big hug and a smile, telling me he'd missed me and it was good to see me. It is very sad and extremely cruel for someone to encourage such a loving and generous person to take their own life, and there needs to be change. Max is the perfect example of someone who needed help in dark times in his life, and not be ridiculed and torn down in his weakest moments. I hope that people can grow to be kinder and more caring to each other as our life goes on. Max will be missed by so many.

Brandon Bowles



Dear Kansas Legislator,

We are losing a generation!

We are losing a generation to screen time.

We are losing a generation to mental illness.

We are losing a generation to suicide.

On April 14, 2023, my very dear friend lost her grandson Max Coleman to suicide. He was in an unhealthy relationship with a girl who had no fear of consequences. After a breakup with Max, her new "boyfriend" texted Max and told him to kill himself. There was no new boyfriend, instead a demented person who hid behind a text screen of anonymity.

In an article posted by La Amistad Behavioral Health Services the effects of "screen time over usage are depression, anxiety, and brain fog, as well as the inability to regulate consumption of media, cyberbullying/harassment and self-isolation." (<https://lamistad.com> February 15, 2023 "Screen Time Effects on Mental Health"). Max experienced some of these effects; especially harassment via texting.

Max tried to reach out for help as he knew he was in a dark place, but there were not any local resources available in a timely matter. In Kansas, 67.62 percent of the communities do not have enough mental health professionals to serve residents in need. Appointments to visit with counselors have long wait lists.

Finally, there needs to be laws in place for individuals who encourage a person to end his/her life. Suicide is the second most common cause of death in those ages 10-24. Kansas is ranked the 12<sup>th</sup> highest state for deaths by suicide (CDC, 2020 figures).

As a legislator, you have the power through "Max's Law" to make a difference in some of your youngest constituents' lives. You can assist in saving a generation!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carol Fletcher

#LiveToTheMax

Max was honestly one of the most energetic, caring, and loving person that I've met. He loved making people laugh and would light up every room that he walked in to. Max made my high school years very memorable starting clubs and making everyone feel included. I would've never expected this from him. I believe people should be held accountable for their actions. Change needs to be made. It makes me sick that someone would encourage suicide upon another human being when all they did was seek out of help. We need to do better.

Thank you,  
Carter Nguyen

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

It is with a heavy heart I am writing this letter. Words cannot convey the pure devastation associated with what I need to discuss. A mother has the honor of bringing life into our world, and from the first breath, she does everything in her power to preserve, provide and protect that life. Unfortunately, my friend lost her twenty-one year old son to suicide. Her brilliant baby was encouraged by someone else to take his life, repeatedly. Another dear friend of mine took her own life after her boyfriend suggested life would be better without her. In a world fueled by social media and inaccurate expectations, it is imperative to hold persons accountable for their actions.

Mental health education is also critical at an early age. Let us foster our children to talk openly about their struggles! No one should feel they have to hide behind a social media post, or find their worth in the amount of 'followers' they have.

I have seen the spread of grief experienced by the loved ones of both of these families. People are forever changed in unfathomable ways by any death. I feel strongly that if people are held accountable for their cruelty, maybe there will be one less family who has to go through the unthinkable. Maybe we can make a difference in our world today.

Sincerely,

Cassidy Currie



I couldn't make it through the evening without tears. In the grand scheme of things, me doing this was a small thing, same as me writing this letter. However, I believe change only comes when small things grow with love to become large things that can and do make a difference.

A few months have passed since my daughter lost her friend Max. She grieves for him daily and cries for him frequently but has been blessed to have constant reminders of him. She sees him in the superhero t-shirts her students were (randomly) wearing the day she went back to work after the funeral, in the cardinals who have appeared to her so many times since he died, and the silly tattoo she has on her finger that she got while a bunch of her friends, Max included, were hanging out. He is not lost in her thoughts, stories, and memories and for that I am grateful even though it breaks my heart.

I can say without a doubt that Max will live forever in her heart. It takes a special person to have had that much of an impact on people and Max did that for my daughter.

*Cat Wilson*

316-305-6864

317 E. Osage

Rose Hill, KS 67133

June 21, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am sending this letter urging the Kansas lawmakers to pass a law that would hold people accountable for urging or encouraging someone to commit suicide, rather than getting them help. If someone knows that they might spend time in jail etc. for committing this horrible act, they just might not do it. At least they might think about what the consequences might be.

Please help protect those in mental/emotional distress by requiring some type of help with suicide prevention in Public Schools. I truly feel that there is a huge need for this in the Public Schools. If students are educated and helped with this issue, the school administrators could see who needs help and with the education, the students might see hope and see that there are places to go for help. Those students need to know that someone cares and there are places to go to get help.

I truly believe that this would help to save lives in Kansas and even if it only saves one life, IT IS WORTH IT. Stop and think about it, next time it might be your son or daughter, because none of us are immune from this.

Again, I believe passing this law would have a positive effect to decreasing the suicide numbers in Kansas.

Sincerely,



Cinda Alexander

cinda.alexander1@icloud.com

Courtney Le  
4406 Norwich Dr.  
College Station, TX 77845

May 25, 2023

Rep. Nick Hoheisel  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Suite 551-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Rep. Hoheisel,

My name is Courtney Le; and I am a colleague of Jill Janes. When I learned of the opportunity available to personally attest to the pain that the Janes' and Coleman family have experienced by someone else's careless and heartless acts of urging Max to commit suicide, I felt an overwhelming urge to make a call for change in honor of Max's life.

I did not personally know Max Coleman, but I've known his Mother for four years. Let me tell you about the type of mother Jill is. She is present, forgiving, consistent, calm, brave, hardworking, and always available to her children. She has been my personal rock at times in my own hardships as a Mother. When Jill speaks of her six children, you feel nothing but pure joy, admiration, and love. This joy was ripped from her hands April 14<sup>th</sup>. Jill's first-born son was taken from this earth by the careless and vicious acts of another.

She is now broken. The Jill before could never have been broken; this attests to her own personal resiliency. Jill's light that always shines so bright to others, will forever be dimmed because of the actions of another human being encouraging Max to end his life. The Janes and Coleman families were forever changed April 14<sup>th</sup>; and the life as they know it will not ever be the same. Each of them will learn how to survive the rest of their lives without Max, and continue to find ways to honor his life.

However, just because one survives, does not mean repercussions should not happen, or others not be held accountable. I can assure you of one thing. Your inbox will be flooded with hundreds, if not thousands of letters speaking to the testament of who Max was. You will read memories, regrets, and hopes of change. Jill, with an army behind her will fight for change until a law is created and passed to hold those accountable as it pertains to encouraging another to end their life thru cyber bullying.

Change has to happen in the state of Kansas. We expect it; to change. This was not their own personal life ending; it was Max's. This was not their family experiencing the sudden and horrific loss of their loved one; it was the Janes' and Coleman families.

It is my hope and prayer, that this will somehow save future lives. Thank you for your immediate attention to our cries for help.

Best,



Courtney Le

during this time. I do truly believe that if those messages were not sent to him, then he would still be here today. I know he would have worked through things as he was taking the right steps to do so. He had an appointment set up with a therapist only two days later but because of those texts he didn't get the help he needed.

Now let me ask you this. Why in the state of Kansas was that person who urged him to end his life not held accountable for their actions? It's because it is not in Kansas law. The fact that it is not already is Kansas Legislation infuriates me. It seems like common sense that if someone is crying for help and you push them to end their life, should they not be held accountable? Well I guess common sense clearly is not that common if someone has the heart to do something like that. The death of Max Coleman will forever be a weight on not only myself but everyone who loved him. We always hear that everyone is special and everyone is unique in their own way, but I'm telling you Max put a whole new meaning to that. The amount of people he touched is actually crazy. The impact he had on so many peoples lives is unbelievable.

As time goes on we are seeing a huge number of people babysitting their kids with tablets. Phone addictions are bad enough for teenagers and adults, but now Americans are getting their kids hooked on a false reality from a very young age. All this is doing is creating generations who do not know how to be social because they are babysat my YouTube and random applications on their devices. This is setting us up to create generations of self absorbed NARCISSISTS. Things are already bad enough as they are and I am confident that it is going to get much worse. That is a huge reason to make it illegal in Kansas to push someone to commit suicide. As generations become more and more self absorbed and living through their phones we are only going to see an even bigger increase in keyboard warriors, people who say HORRIBLE things online because they are protected by their screens. By putting this legislation, in place, we can save lives of people who are going through things just like Max did. However, this time we can show people that telling someone to end their life has consequences, and they will be held accountable. As the world gets darker and more evil, day by day, we need to put these laws into effect to save the lives of not only Kansans put people from people other states that do not have these laws put in place.

If you think Kansas is the only place that we are going to push this, you are sadly mistaken. This is something that we are going to push through the entirety of the United States.

I love you so much, Max. Rest in Peace. I look forward to the day we meet again.

Dakota Crane

My name is Dave McFadden. I am Max Coleman's grandfather, otherwise known as "Pa." Being the oldest grandchild, it was left to Max as to what I would be called by all the grandchildren. I would have answered to any name he had given me. I love Max dearly. Let me tell you just one story about my grandson that I think illustrates the tragedy of his life's end.

When Max was in high school, he had the idea to form a student club. So, he went to his principal to find out what to do. He was asked what sort of club he wanted to form. Max replied that it was a club for those who like to drink milk and eat cookies.

Max explained that he thought most everyone likes milk and cookies, and that he didn't want to form another club around athletics, or academics, or hobbies. He wanted to form a club that anyone could join. When Max came to visit at our home, by the way, we couldn't keep enough milk in the refrigerator.

So after receiving permission, Max wrote up the by-laws for the club and recruited his Spanish teacher to be the sponsor. Because the sponsor was the Spanish teacher, he called the club the "La Leche" club, and the officers of the club were called "Leche Lords."

They would meet weekly to drink milk and eat cookies. Everyone paid dues to cover the cost, and the underclassmen were responsible to go to Braum's to buy the milk and cookies for the meetings. After filling their glasses with milk, they all toasted each other by saying together, "Long Live La Leche!"

The La Leche club was the largest club in the history of Maize High School.

How my grandson could go from the La Leche club to being all alone in his apartment, systematically isolated by his girlfriend from all his friends, and taking his own life is a sad story indeed. But it is the story behind why our family is requesting a change be made in the laws of the state of Kansas regarding holding those who encourage someone they know to be in a volatile emotional state to commit suicide.

Certainly, I have to grapple with the fact that suicide was my grandson's choice. It is difficult enough to think that the love of his family wasn't enough to make him make a different decision. But to know that he made that decision after receiving countless text messages berating him and criticizing him and finally being told, when he said he was thinking of suicide, to "go for it" is more than we can stomach.

Please understand, we are not asking for new legislation to hold those found guilty of bullying someone into committing suicide so our family might have revenge, but so that other families might be spared this kind of experience and so that others who might think of being as mean spirited as were my grandson's antagonists, to think twice and thus, hopefully, spare someone else the fate that my grandson experienced.

Thank you.

Dave McFadden  
147 Yucca Dr.  
Portales, NM 88130



To Whom It May Concern:

I am in support of the Kansas Legislators enacting stricter laws concern people who encourage others to commite suicide.

People who are involved in this type of harassment have no concept of the damage and hurt they cause the families and there needs to be consequences for their actions.

Thank you for your consideration of stricter laws.

Deanna Teal

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I do not live in Kansas, I have read about Max and the circumstances surrounding his death. I can't think of anything worse than finding your loved one has taken his or her life because of cruelty imposed on his/her life by another individual.

I urge you to put into law regulations that would hold people responsible for their actions.

Actually, a law should be put into place in all states! I know of a wonderful man who took his life in New Mexico under similar circumstances. This can't continue.

Thank you for your consideration,

Denise Ann Knight  
2213 Twin Lakes Road  
Lake Preston, South Dakota 57249

June 15, 2023

On the morning of April 14<sup>th</sup> my phone rang.

Who is calling me at 5:53 in the morning? I raised my head to see my phone screen. It was my daughter, Jill. "Hey, Jill, what's going on?"

"MOM, MAX SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD! MAX IS DEAD!"

I somehow managed to maneuver the trip from New Mexico to Kansas, the funeral, and reluctantly, the trip home leaving my daughter, who found Max, to manage her own grief.

The first night home when I placed my phone on my bedside table and plugged it in, I heard it again, "MOM, MAX SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD! MAX IS DEAD!" Adrenaline began to pump through my body just like it did when I got the first call. The next morning when I reached for my phone, I heard it again.

"MOM, MAX SHOT HIMSELF IN THE HEAD! MAX IS DEAD!" I continue to hear it every evening when I place my phone down and again when I pick it up every morning. Will I forever have these words and adrenaline attached to the placing and picking up of my phone to my bedside table? I don't know yet.

I always thought Max to be the strongest and smartest of my ten wonderful grandchildren. When he would visit us in the summer, his goal was to have the highest score on every game in our old first-generation Wii, and he did. Last week the two youngest of my grandchildren came for a week's visit, and the very first thing they did was turn on the Wii. I heard Enoch squeal when he got second place right behind Max's score on one of the games. "Now all I have to do is score a few more points to beat Max." Oh, no, I thought. I don't want you to make Max and his score disappear. I said nothing because I must let him enjoy the Wii, the way Max did, but secretly I hoped he couldn't pass Max's score, not this year. When the two kids played in my hammock, I saw Max. It was another of his favorite places to play. Everything we did last week grieved me, although I hopefully managed to hide it, and that is unfair to the other grandkids. I want Max back!

To: Kansas State Representative Nick Hoheisel

Re: Max Coleman/Jill Janes

From : Dr. Tobie R. Morrow  
West Wichita Family Physicians  
8200 W. Central  
Wichita, KS 67212

Dear Rep. Nick Hoheisel -

I am writing to support the continued work you are doing to help introduce a bill into law in the State of Kansas to discourage the act of urging or encouraging others to follow through with suicide. I am a family practice physician and see and evaluate mental health issues on a daily basis, but it was a very small part of my training. The access to mental health providers in Sedgwick County and the State of Kansas is very limited and difficult to navigate for me, as a physician, let alone a patient who is in desperate need of help. There needs to be more resources available to help people who are suffering from mental illness, but there also needs to be more education in the schools and universities on suicide awareness and prevention. I also strongly recommend you help push for a law that holds individuals accountable for urging another to commit suicide, especially if that is via social media or texting. Max Coleman was a member of our church family when my children were in elementary school and I have continued to have contact with his mother, Jill Janes through the years. The news of his tragic death has affected our family greatly and has led to many discussions with our children on the topic of suicide and mental illness, but more needs to be done. There are so many teens and young adults who are suffering daily and contemplating ending their lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dr. Tobie R. Morrow

I want to start by saying to know Max was to love Max. Though i wasn't bestfriends with him i had the honor and privilege to spend many days and nights with him. He was one of the most intelligent people and biggest joys to be around. One story that will always stick with me about Max is that i had surgery once last February and it was a weekly occurrence that all of my sister and her friends got together to watch Euphoria. That week it was held at my house. I remember he came in and just sat with me for a while and talked to me about anything and everything because he felt bad for me and just wanted to make me feel better. It worked too. I had been in pain from that surgery for about a week and honestly him just being there took away the pain for just a little bit. now I realize he was in pain and instead of someone being there to help his pain go away he was only told he deserved to feel that way and to kill himself. That is not okay. I do not care who you are, what you have been through, or what you think is right because no matter the situation that is wrong. Max was the person anybody could go to with anything. Nobody knew he was feeling like this and the one person that did encouraged his suicide. Why is she not punished. Isn't that almost the same thing as murder. I can say me personally I have been in a space of having suicidal thoughts and without my friends there to tell me they loved me and I would get through this I wouldn't be here. I couldn't imagine having nobody by my side, let alone having someone encouraging my suicide thoughts. I would not be writing this. There is also a side of this people do not want to talk about and that is the greif of it. Grief is a complicated subject as itself. Now to experience grief because of someone committing suicide is a whole different type of greif. honestly behind all of this there is one person to blame and it is the one that told him to commit but now all of Max's friends and family have to question for the rest of there lives what they did wrong or what they could have done better. This is a pain nobody should have to feel and a confusion that nobody, no matter how strong, can get through. It will impact every single person that knew Max for the rest of their lives. We need a change and a change needs to come soon so these rates go down. Be the change, if not for yourself, then for Max.

Ella

Writing this message as a parent of a best friend of Max Coleman. I think about Max daily as I help my son navigate life without Max. The impact Max had on our family since my son and Max were in 5th grade the memories were supposed to go on forever.

There were times you couldn't tell the boys apart when looking at them from the back of their heads in the early days.

They dressed on twin day in matching skeleton t-shirts

Their love of all things spiderman

Max was the friend that would bring the fun and shenanigans to nearly everything he did.

Xbox playing

Throwing for track

Playing football

Camping trips

A day on the farm

Trip to the texas gulf

The last time they saw each other in person they shared time over a drink and cigar with both being 21 finally, a milestone of adulthood.

The last time they texted was the night before Max lost his life, you see my son too was going through a difficult breakup. There were supposed to be so many more life adventures together but now I help my son adjust to a life without Max.

Max should have been met with encouragement to a crisis # or even 911 but instead someone encouraged him to end his life. That person was exceptionally cruel with their communications with Max which unfortunately were the last Max had on this earth. These communications were deliberately planned. Those actions are just like a murder who plans their actions to complete a murder.

Our world has become increasingly cruel and mean but that does not mean someone can do these things and not be responsible. A person who encourages someone to end their life should be held legally responsible. Please support enacting a law in Kansas and elsewhere in the United States so that others do not experience this pain of losing a loved one without legal recourse.

Our lives are forever changed because of having Max in it and we must stand with the family for change. #formax #livelifetothemax

Erin L Pettera  
3122 N Landon Cir  
Wichita, KS 67205  
316-641-1287

06/29/2023

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I am writing to you as a concerned husband, father, brother, and member of society regarding suicide prevention. While seeing suicide becoming far too prevalent with our younger generations, we should be active to help in the healing rather than waiting for it to get worse. Our responsibility as caretakers, as well as legislatures, is to help those in need.

I was made aware of my co-worker's loss of her son who took his own life. That alone is hard to hear how a person struggled with ending it all. It is also heartbreaking to hear how a young man who will be tormented while suffering mental illness can then be coerced to self-harm without due consequences. While their son struggled, his parents sought out treatment as best they could while caring for him as best they could, leaving them limited options. When he passed, it was days before seeing a counselor or anyone who might give them guidance.

Our children are asking for help while they face harassment that can take them over the edge. Meanwhile, those responsible for further torment are not held accountable and so it goes on unchecked. So, I write to you to be a mouthpiece as well as a catalyst for accountability and awareness for suicide prevention. Furthermore, we need your help to make people aware of the terrible actions that lead to harming our youth either in person, on social media, or in school.

We appreciate your time and effort and the serious impact this has on our families.

Gabriel L. Montez

979.465.5201

Heather Ramos  
2 Baccara Place  
The Woodlands, TX 77384  
(281) 705-3108

State of Kansas  
Attn: Rep. Hoheisel  
C/O: Jill Janes

Re: Suicide Laws and Mental Health Education in Kansas and USA

To whom it may concern:

My name is Heather Ramos. I write to you today urging for better laws and education regarding suicide and mental illness in the state of Kansas, and quite frankly, the entire United States. As someone who has experienced the death of a loved one due to suicide, and the considerable suffering of two other family members dealing with mental illness, I consider mental health education and suicide prevention to be of utmost importance, not only to youth, but to all ages. It is truly a cause that should be given great consideration and resources to assist those who are suffering. The State of Kansas needs to address this issue and put the proper education and resources in place so that no other individual chooses this method to end their life. The fact that 10 people die every week in Kansas by suicide is astounding. This should NOT be the case!

More importantly, it appalls me that no law currently exists to hold individuals accountable for urging another person to commit suicide. There is no reason that ANY PERSON should encourage another to end their life. Quite honestly, it's disgusting and an enormous form of abuse! To me, this is the same as pulling the trigger to take a life. These individuals need to account for their actions. However, a law preventing this type of abuse should, at the least, keep them from urging others to end their life with the threat of prison time.

In conclusion, I fervently ask for the State of Kansas to:

1. Teach Suicide Prevention in Kansas schools
2. Allow for mental/emotional distress excuses from School in grades K-12
3. Require and provide mental health and medical professionals with the proper training to handle suicide assessments, treatment and management
4. Provide more healthcare professionals to assist with the growing mental health crisis
5. Require Kansas Colleges and Universities to resource students with mental health and suicide prevention services

Thank you for your time and consideration. My hope and prayer are that death by suicide decreases substantially, or better yet, completely with the much-needed provision of education and resources. I know this is possible with your help and establishment of new laws and requirements for the state of Kansas.

Sincerely and Concerned,

Heather Ramos



To whomever it may concern,

Max Coleman was a dear friend of mine ever since I met him as a freshman in highschool. He was an amazing role model to the younger generations and constantly accepting of embarrassing things. I got to know him better as I became a best friend of his brother Josh.

Max's death impacted me in ways I could not even imagine. I see Max's brother daily and cannot go a day without thinking of the events that took place and how it has affected his family and friends. Not only of how it happened but why it happened. Max was persuaded and coaxed over time into committing an act he would not do on his own. Max was tore down from a high spirited lovely individual to someone that did not see any worth in himself. Max would still be with us today if there were consequences to the crimes committed against him. A law passed that persuading someone into suicide had consequences would save people from suicide and prosecute horrible people. Life is precious and should never be belittled into something not worth living.

Thank you,

Jaden Wilson

06/22/2023

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I am writing this letter on behalf of a dear friend, who tragically lost her son to suicide through the careless act of someone texting him and telling him to end his life. No, I do not live in the fine State of Kansas, but I do believe people should be held accountable for their actions when it takes the life of an individual, in a venerable state of mind. Should there be a law that holds people accountable for their actions in scenarios of this situation? Yes, this is paramount to bullying and it needs to end. This was a young man who just turned 21. Dreams, hopes and seeing her son grow with a family of his own have vanished. Momma's and Daddies should be able to see their children grow, not put them in a grave. The individual who initiated the messages – no consequences to their insensitive actions that caused this young man to take his life. What a shame and travesty. I am pleased that you are willing to meet with the family, in hopes of passing a law that will hold others accountable for their actions.

With Sincere Gratitude,



James Logan

2615 El Toro Dr #201

Huntsville, TX. 77340

979-587-3184

To whom it may concern:

It is imperative that we as a Nation do everything in our power to eliminate the abusive environment that rewards the cruel and insensitive behaviors of bullies. Our children are the future. We must protect them. Do your part. Make the laws. Practice kindness.

--  
**Jena Moffitt**



as it is and so many people out there suffer from it and my friend was a victim of these attacks. This is why there needs to be change. No one else should have to be subjected to the pain of losing a loved one just because of a few typed words.

Jenna Buckley



Dear Representative Hoheisel,

- My son is funny, loyal and always up for an adventure.
- My son has depression & anxiety.
- He's always said the scariest place to be is in his own head.
- His girlfriend recognized when he was spiraling into a dark place - because she knew.
- Thank God she helped him see that the voices in his head were liars.
- Thank God she held the lantern in his darkness when he was too tired.
- Because had she validated either my son may not be here today.
- My son is 30 years old, his late teen-early 20s were the hardest times in his life - as it is for most.
- Provoking, encouraging suicide

Dear reader,

I have been deeply saddened by Max Coleman's passing and it has been a very devastating time for me and those who have also known Max.

Max was my best friend for many years and helped me through many dark times in my life. He could always bring a smile to my face and even when I had no one to turn to, Max was there.

The fact that when Max reached out in need to someone else they met him with cruel intentions and words breaks my heart.

The topic of suicide and self harm has become way too normalized and comfortable for our generation.

Max was only 21, and I am 20 grieving the loss of my friend.

There needs to be change done.

And unfortunately it still cannot bring Max back. But I truly believe Max would want to help others even in the midst of his own personal suffering and pain- and he would want his passing to leave a lasting impact.

I miss Max everyday. I think of him often, and wish I could have gotten to say goodbye.

Max deserved there to be change done before this ever happened.

The person who told him to hurt himself, they should have known that there were laws in place that would hold them accountable for their reckless words.

But there aren't any.

This needs to change.

Do it for Max.

-Jessica Touchatt

Thank you for your time.

Jessi Moates  
Madison, GA

To whom it may concern,

I did not know Max personally and to be honest I can't recall any of the conversations I may have had with him.

What I can recall is how Max's life impacted the life of my nephew Dakota Crane. Dakota's life was much better with Max in it. The two of them and their close circle of friends have so many lasting memories of fun times together which are highlighted by stories and pictures on social media platforms. The loss of Max prevents future memories being made and robs Dakota of an irreplaceable friendship.

My family and I are seeing the effects that suicide has on those left behind. My nephew will never be the same due to the tragic loss of Max. He is drowning in sorrow and sadness while not understanding why this had to happen. He spoke to Max for a long time before Max took his life and is left with the question of what he could have said differently to change this outcome.

I unfortunately have known four people in my life that have committed suicide and never saw any signs that they were going to tragically end their lives. I am left with the nagging feeling of I wish I had known or what could I have done for them so they would still be here.

Every time I see a train I am reminded of the death of my sister-in-law, Renee Taylor, who took her life by jumping in front of train. I see the impact her death has had on my niece and nephew and how it has changed how they live their lives.

Whenever I see a hot air balloon, I am reminded of my friend Scott, who spent countless hours working with them. I am reminded of his death and wonder what I could have said to him so he knew we cared and loved him. Scott left behind a daughter who had to grow up without her dad.

Something as simple as a racecar reminds me of my friend Allen Terry who took his life leaving behind a wife and two children. Allen was always at the racetrack helping in the pits or watching from the stands. Another love of Allen's was being out on the lake in a boat with his family.

As I drive down Commercial Ave in Sedgwick, KS, I am reminded of the recent suicide of Ty Ramsey, as I see his banner as a Hometown Hero. Ty served in the Navy with two tours in Afghanistan. Ty also leaves behind a wife and young two children. His children must grow up without their father and missed memories.

The act of suicide impacts so many people who are left behind. Those left behind have hidden scars and broken pieces that others can't see from the outside. We are left behind wondering what we could have said or done differently, often blaming ourselves.



Dear Mr. Hoheisel,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to share with you the impact that suicide has had on my life. Let us work together to help convey to our Kansas state legislators the devastating consequences of this tragic event and to plead them to consider making the act of talking someone into committing suicide a criminal offense.

I am a survivor of suicide loss, my nephew Max Coleman ended his life on April 14th 2023. Though the act itself was an unimaginable heartbreak for those of us that Max left behind. What brought more shock and confusion adding to my grief was that two individuals had encouraged Max to take his own life.

The first turn of phrase my mind reaches to describe these individuals is Monsters. As a society we do our best to protect our children from monsters. There are several laws in place that do just that. Why would here be any different? Suicide effects not only the individual, but whole families and communities. Having laws in place for suicide would not only possibly save the individual contemplating such an act, but those of us who would be dealing with its aftermath. Each day, I wake up thinking about Max. What could I have done to change the events that led to his death? If Max had heard my voice would that have changed anything? That question may never be answered. What I do know, Mr. Hoheisel, is that I can lend you my voice. My voice and the voices of everyone else crying out for change in Kansas law dealing with suicide. Make them hear us. Make them feel our grief over those we've lost. Most importantly give them the tools to save lives. If Kansas had laws in place to prevent others from encouraging individuals to take their own lives, then my Max would still be with us. I know nothing can bring Max back, but I want all the other Max's out there to have a chance at living too. Give them an opportunity to live their lives to the Max. #LivetotheMax

Thank you for giving Max and I a voice,

Joshua David McFadden  
Aka Uncle Bud

Dear Representative Hoheisel & all other Kansas Representatives:

I am writing this letter to support a family that has known a terrible tragedy! No mother should have to find her 21 year old son after he ended his own life because of the urging of a former girlfriend who broke up with him & also broke his heart. However, breaking his heart was not enough for this young woman, as she also found it necessary to break his spirit as well. She even went as far as to get a friend to join her in taunting this young man, Max, as the friend pretended to be her new boyfriend through texting. Together these two cruel, heartless young women, berated Max, & instead of showing any kindness or human decency told him to go ahead & kill himself when he shared his feelings of mental & emotional pain & self-harm. No daughter should have to tell her parents that their oldest grandson has died in a horrific way. No grandfather should have to speak at the funeral service of his grandson who had just committed suicide by shooting himself. No grandmother should have to try & comfort her laughter, husband, grandchildren, & others when she needs comforted herself. No former girlfriend, her friend, or anyone else should be able to text someone to suggest, encourage, dare, or demand that they kill themselves without being held accountable!

I didn't know Max & I don't know Jill, his mother, but I do know Dave & Donna McFadden, his grandparents. Brother Dave was my pastor for over 10 years, and Donna supported & worked alongside him in the church also. Dave & Donna are my friends & it broke my heart for them & their whole family when I heard the sad news about Max. Even though I didn't know Max, I've heard Donna talk about all of her kids & grandkids when I've been to her house for "Wednesday Crafts," and I've seen the towel clip with Max's name on it in their bathroom. I've heard about "Cousin Camp, when Dave & Donna go on special trips & do special activities with their grandkids in the summer. Max was a real person, with a real family, who really loved him, but they couldn't prevent or stop the mental & emotional anguish he was going through. I believe Max was going through depression because of the breakup with his girlfriend, the girl he thought he was going to marry & spend the rest of his life with. The breakup had left him devastated from every indication. Depression is something I know first-hand. I've had depression at different times in my adult life, it is always difficult to deal with. However, I experienced severe depression from July 2018 to the end of August 2019. Severe depression takes you to a very dark place, the pit of despair. It robs you of your joy & interest in daily life. It leaves you feeling lost, confused, lonely, & hopeless. It is truly a temporary hell on earth! I don't know exactly what Max was feeling or all the circumstances that led him to take his own life, but I do know he did something drastic & permanent to try to end the pain. He needed words that would give him some encouragement & hope. He needed positive words. However, hurtful words were texted to him instead. The old saying about "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me" is totally false! Words have the ability to hurt very deeply and even destroy another person. Many people in today's society find it easy to hurt someone with their words through texting, emailing, messaging, and various kinds of social media. There needs to be some accountability for their words & actions when anyone is harmed, has died, or has committed suicide as a result. Legislation needs to be put in place in Kansas & all the other 49 states that will do that.

Thank you for your consideration,

Julie Cathey  
229 Kansas Drive, Portales, NM 88130

also for the people that are currently in the position of "does my life matter" I want to make the change of laws and regulations to stop the discouragement and urging of telling another human being to no longer be apart of this lifetime. I want to send the message that everyone's life matters and that no one should be put in the position that Max was ever put into. So, I think that we need change to happen immediately and that starts with one person, one letter, one message, or that one phone call at a time, and this is that letter.

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I first want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet with Jill. I unfortunately was not privileged enough to ever meet Max; but by the amount of people that attended his memorial you could tell he was a great son, friend, and human. His life was ended too short due to insensitive actions of another person. A person that unfortunately isn't being held accountable due to the laws in Kansas. This young man had his whole life ahead of him. There are many people hurting due to this great loss. Praying that there will be a law passed to hold people accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your time,  
Kara Bayer

To whom it may concern

A friend of mine lost her 21 year old son to suicide. Such a tragedy, so much potential gone.

I'm told he was going through a very emotional break up and was encouraged to kill himself on social media. No one is being held accountable because there are no laws that discourage that kind of behavior. Pushing emotionally hurting, vulnerable people to commit the unthinkable is cyberbullying. It should be a criminal offense. Only you, and people in your position can do anything about it. People need to know there are consequences to their behavior.

Please consider enforcing laws to address this issue. I ask you please, save lives and the heartbreak it causes.

Karen H. Smith  
4700 W 13th N  
Apt 2104  
Wichita, Kansas  
67212

Suicide is not an easy topic. It will never be an easy topic. Suicide prevention is the only topic as an outsider looking in that you hear about. What they don't tell you is how people encourage others to follow through with suicide and that they actually do it, yet it's not a crime even though it's mental murder.

My best friend was a beautiful girl, inside and out. Our senior year of high school, she had a glow up that made her more radiant than I can describe. During this time, she lost her groundings but hid it very well because she was finally where she wanted to be in her life. Inside though, she was struggling, and her friends, myself included had no idea. We graduated and suddenly Alyssa went quiet. No one heard from her. No one could get in contact with her. I woke up one morning to the news that our entire town was talking about a realistic scarecrow hanging from an apartment building. Upon zooming in on a social media post of it, it became way too real. I knew the building and I knew the person who was hanging there lifeless with no explanation as to how this could be a reality. One text message ended her life. One person who encouraged her to end it all is what pushed her over the edge. For years, I was at a loss of how a person I loved so dearly could've been fighting an inner demon that I knew nothing about. She wrote all of us a letter but didn't say what her final moments consisted of. Only when we had a five-year memorial for her did her dad express how hard it was to know the person who helped his daughter commit suicide and have to live each day resenting them.

If that one person wouldn't have told her that she was better off dead, maybe she would still be here. We had dreams together. We had a life planned out together. Much of my adult life is me wondering where I would be if she was still here. Her leaving this earth in the way that she did was not a way that anyone should die.

One text message.

That's all it took.

Her final thoughts were nothing of peace. They were of how she was "better off dead." Encouraging death should be a crime. Mental health is real. When someone encourages another person to die, it is murdering their brain. How would you feel if the person you spent every single day with was suddenly gone and you find out a text message from her stepmom is what took her from you? I hope to one day see the change in the system.

Best,  
Katie Tyler

Dear reader,

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to write this letter to talk about who Max was, and why passing this bill would enact significant and fruitful change in Kansas. Max was a great person and friend, and he always kept a light-hearted attitude no matter what he was doing. Max was one of the most down-to-earth people I know, and he always had your back if you needed him, because he was loyal to his friends, and wanted to see them do well. Max was friends with anyone and everyone. It felt like he knew everyone in school, even the younger kids. He was one of the funniest people I knew, and he was never afraid to humiliate himself, one example being when he shaved his eyebrows for some high-quality milk. To say that Max's death was a tragedy would be an understatement. When I found out that he passed away, I could not speak, and I could not process it. He was only 21, and he had his whole life ahead of him. When I first learned of his passing, I didn't know that someone encouraged him to kill himself. After I heard that horrifying detail, I couldn't believe that there are people in this world that would encourage someone to take their own life. Not only did they rob Max of his time on this earth, but they robbed Max's family and his friends of his light. Nobody's heart should be aching for someone as young as Max. I strongly urge you to support the passing of this suicide prevention bill to help prevent a disaster like this from happening in the future, and allow that person to thrive in God's beautiful creation.

Sincerely,

Kayden Karlin

"Max took his life" These four words that I heard early on Friday, April 15th shattered my world.

Max was one of my best friends. When I first met Max, he was wearing a brown sweater vest with a mischievous smile. When I walked into the apartment, he sprang up from the couch and greeted my other friends who he has met before with a big smile and jokes. When we made eye contact, he jumped at the opportunity to ask me my name. After telling him my name he proceeds to ask me at least 20 questions about myself. He asked "What's your favorite color" "Where are you from" "What do you want to do in college" "When is your birthday" "How many siblings do you have" and so many more. After this conversation, I began to ask Max about himself. He told me about how much he loved his family, he loved his guitar, and how much he loves his friends. I knew that he had a heart of gold and could not wait to continue building our relationship.

Max was so intentional about the conversations he was having with people. The next time I saw Max he told me my birthday was in 108 days. He remember every single answer from the first night I met him. I was simply in awe. After that, we hung out all the time. Max was an entertainer and I knew that when I was going to hang out with him, I had to prepare for stomach cramps due to all of the belly laughter. He knew how to brighten a room. Whether by dancing to Rick and Morty, playing a rap song on the piano, showing us a new song he learned on the guitar, or telling stories Max was always entertaining. He loved to see you smile and that is what Max did. I remember one night we were at the apartment and he was playing the guitar. I told him I wish I knew how to play an instrument and he jumped at the opportunity to teach me a song on the piano. He was patient and kind and truly wanted me to learn to be included.

One of the biggest things I learned from Max was kindness. Although he loved entertaining and being the center of attention, he never left anyone out. No matter who you were he was going to get to know you. He was going to care about you with his whole heart, Max showed me how to be a friend and show up for people. He showed me that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and that no one is a stranger. Max had so many friends because he cared about so many people. I will never forget whenever we went into public together, he would make friends. The cashier at Walmart would be his friend, and the stranger in passing would be his friend. He loved so wide and so deep.

I was lucky enough to see another side of Max. Although that's the time he was pretty hyper and energetic I was able to get to know the max that sit with with you for hours and listen. I remember telling Max about a high school boy. Looking back on it, the issue was so minor, but Max could tell I was upset. There was plenty of other fun going on, but Max stopped everything to make sure I was OK, we talked for hours and I will never forget that conversation and how he put aside everything that he was battling to listen to me. He was one of the people that could fix my pain. I wish I had someone like him to talk to right now about the pain and all of the struggle of losing him, he was one of the few people that was able to put me back together at my lowest.

He was one of a kind. Losing him has been the worst pain. The type of pain I used to think was unimaginable. This is the kind of pain that is worst than any physical pain because it can not be



Hi Jill, my name is Kierah. I did not know Max personally but I have multiple friends who adored and loved him. I saw the post made about making a bill and I wanted to send you an email expressing my condolences and why I think it's right to make this happen. When I was a sophomore in high school, I was cyber bullied so bad that I considered ending my life and it got very intense. A rumor started about me that never happened and wasn't even close to accurate. It took a huge toll on my mental health and my little self didn't deserve the unkind words and rumors spread about her. The pain I went through as a 15 year old girl is never something I'd wish on anybody. I got to a point where I started to really obsess over the thought of ending my life. I thought of all the ways I could do it. I eventually slipped up and asked my mom if she had ever thought about ending her life growing up. \*She knew about the bullying\*. She said no that she hadn't and asked if I had and I lied and told her no. She caught on and started asking questions. She broke down my barriers. I eventually got better and the rumors and cyber bullying settled. The damage after was what was so traumatizing. I still struggle with mental health. I hit my all time low in February of this year and the feeling of that low felt very familiar. How I felt in February was far worse than what I dealt with in high school but my little self was struggling. I was told to kill myself pretty frequently. That phrase is so extremely powerful. If I wouldn't have deleted social media for a little bit, I may have been pushed so far to do it. I'm glad I didn't. I am so incredibly sorry that your son lost his battle. I'm so sorry that somebody coerced him into going through with it. I've heard nothing but good things. I wish there would've been a better outcome. But maybe there still can be if this bill is passed. Kids are being bullied every single day whether it's in person or over the phone. Hearing that a child has taken their life makes my heart hurt. I feel for families and friends. Watching the fall out is so gut wrenching. You're doing something incredible for our future children. Please don't stop fighting. People who encourage somebody to take their own life should be behind bars. I firmly believe that they're just as guilty as a murderer that used an actual weapon to kill. Their weapon was their damn words. It's not ok. Again, I send my sincerest condolences for the loss of your son. I hope you are able to heal and continue to live your life FOR your son. You're doing right by him. I can't imagine the pain you're going through but I can tell you right now that you're doing the most with your grief. Please don't give up on this. This needs to happen. You're attempting to save lives and that's what these helpless kids need. You're being the change. Thank you for trying your best to protect these future kids. I needed this growing up and it heals my inner child seeing this take place right now so thank you for this. If there's anything else I can do, please let me know. I'm in your corner and want to help in any way I can. Have a good rest of your Sunday :)

Kierah Wall

Please follow other states lead and revise Kansas laws. Put the statutes in place for the judicial system to look at the hard proof as it is obvious to see that she not only loaded the gun, but it was her finger covering his on the trigger. She should be accountable and responsible for her part in his death.

Sadly, you might have heard of tragic relationships or sadly still, one of your family has dealt with this type of abuse. Electronic bullying isn't limited to schools. It is a new age.

Please Take Action...Hold those responsible accountable! The next time, it could be your loved one affected.

Kim Short

Conroe, Texas

To whom it may concern,

I didn't know Max well. We had a single Spanish class together in high school. He was always a light in the room. The way he could have an entire class belly laughing and crying from his humor is something to behold. Max always found a way to brighten the mood. He was a life that was gone too soon and left a hole in many hearts.

With that being said, suicide and mental health laws in Kansas need to change. In 2018 I myself was put in a psychiatric hospital for suicidal ideation. It was the hardest thing I've ever gone through. Day after day, feeling absolutely worthless. I would never wish that on my worst enemy, let alone such an incredible student, friend, brother, son and many other of the amazing things Max was.

There is nothing protecting the people and the CHILDREN who are struggling with the words of those hiding behind a screen. Words can prove to be even stronger than actions. Research has proven that the human brain is not fully developed until 25 years old, leaving executive function including decision making skills not yet fully intact in these teen/young adult years.

I believe Kansas needs change.

Lauren Giroux

out for help. He did not deserve to feel alone and have someone de-value his life even more. Someone he cared about encouraging him to do something terrible.

I wish more than anything that Max knew how much we all loved him. I wish he knew how proud of him I was, his friends were, his brothers, and his parents were. I wish he knew that we all boasted just as much about him as he did about how proud he was of his brother who was leaving for college.

There is not a day that goes by that I do not think about Max. I remember all of our happy memories, the forever. Thinking of them brings me happiness, but it also takes my breath away thinking of all the experiences Max will miss as we all grow up, and start our adult lives. Our lives without Max. The one that hurts me the most is that he did not get to see a little baby that he already loved so much come into this world. Brooks. He was so excited to meet Dayne & Cassandra's little boy. He wanted to be such a big part of this kid's life, and had already claimed rights to being the first person there at the hospital. He was already calling himself "Uncle Max". I know in my heart, he would have been baby Brooks's favorite person. He was one of my favorite persons.

Things have to change. Too many young lives are being lost senselessly to suicide. Even just one more is too many. No one my age should have to bury a friend. No mother or father should have to bury a child because of suicide. A suicide what was encouraged by another person on the other line of a phone or a text message. I beg you to push for the change in the state of Kansas. I beg you to push for more help for those struggling and for harsher consequences for those individuals who encourage self-harm or for someone to end his or her life.

In memory of Max Isaiah Coleman,

Lily May

Dear Jill,

I have been friends with Dakota for a couple months now and he has helped me grow and lot mentally and in the gym. I never got to meet Max but I saw and heard a decent amount about him. The biggest thing for me is how I saw it affected dakota. I made an effort to email this number because suicide had a huge effect on your loved ones and its always better to just talk to someone about whatever is going on. Dakota has definitely not been the same ever since it happened.I wish the best for all of Max's family and close ones.

Sincerely,  
Logan

To whom it may concern:

I didn't know Max personally but my families lives' were impacted by his life and tragically his death. He seemed like the guy that wouldn't have done this kind of thing on a whim. It made more sense when I found out there was a form of coercion. Assisted suicide is not legal in Kansas and I believe telling someone to commit suicide in any way is assisting their suicide. Assisting suicide is murder. The way Max was convinced to commit suicide was also mental assault. Psychological abuse can be more damaging than physical. In Max's case it was , which lead to physical abuse to himself. I truly thought cyber bullying in this manner was illegal. I am appalled to find out there is no law to lead to repercussion for this offense in Kansas. Anyone would definitely think twice about harming someone in this loophole of a fashion if there was a law that was in place and enveloped this atrocity to treat a human being this way. Internet bullies shouldn't be all powerful in their cowardice behind a keyboard, there needs to a change that exposes and holds them accountable for their actions. I am so sorry for the great loss of Max and to anyone who loved him. Let there be a change to help and not hurt anymore.

Earnestly, Maddie Robbins

said was believable because i Know Max. Max had extraordinary kindness to everybody. EVERYBODY.

That was the last day I saw Max, the last day I saw him alive. The last time I received a text from him was 15 hours before learning he took his life.

There's not a certain emotion to cover losing Max- anger, confusion, sadness, despair- those just cover the surface. I remember feeling shock the first day, not really fully comprehending what happened. How could Max Coleman take his own life? There's this stigma around suicide, "losing a battle" "being weak", but none of those are true in Max's case. Max was one of the strongest people I've ever met, there's not a doubt in my mind that Max would still be here if they hadn't contacted that night. If he had reached out to anyone else, we would have been by his side in a heartbeat- THATS how much people loved him. Every single day I wish I could turn back the clock and change things.

This generation uses its primary form of communication through phones- a screen that hides you from seeing the distress you can give other people. What she did is unforgivable. Max is not weak, but when vulnerable, and being told by a person he loved to take his own life- how could we blame him.

With the changing world, changing laws should be hand in hand. I'm not interested in loosing any more friends in this way, and I'm not interested in living In a world where someone can coerce someone to take their own life without repercussions. Especially for their own "fun humor". Max's life means more than that, and so does the next persons. All our lives are just beginning at this point, and now we're going to have to mourn him for the rest of our lives. That's not an easy fact to take in- I see a lightsaber and think of him, I see Spider-Man and think of him, I see our shared tattoo and think of him, I see the street in manhattan we walked down so many times together and think of him. I remember my best friend Mallory struggling to breathe because she was sobbing so hard. I remember vividly the sound of his mother sobbing for him at his funeral- it's possibly the most gut wrenching sound I've ever heard. It replays in my head at random times. We say hi to him when it storms aggressively, because the night of his funeral we drove home between hail storms across Kansas and had a beautiful lightning display, without being hit by any rain. It felt like he was guiding us home.

Max's death will follow me all my life, and I pray that we can see change to help save someone else from feeling this type of pain. Save the next person, do better for our generation. Do it for Max, do it for your kids, your nieces or your nephews. We need to do better.

Live life to the Max,

Maggie Brewster

As our kids grow up and hit the teenage years, their friends tend to talk to us less and less. We no longer have the car rides where we transport them or where they are stuck hanging out with us parents. Max was a one of kind kid. When he walked in our front door, he made it a point to say hi. So many times, he would sit down on the couch and just start talking with me. Max was raised to have manners and be a polite kid. During their teenage years, its fun to watch them use these manners when the parents aren't around. How do I recap his personality into a simple statement? Max was a goofy kid who owned it and I loved watching him develop into the man he was becoming. Max could make the simplest things into hours of laughter for our family. He soon became friends not only with our son but with all of us. I became puzzled when I heard that Max was encouraged to commit suicide and stunned that he would let others influence him to make that choice. But after many hours and days of thought, I realized how important it is to know the power of words. A kid that was goofy, fun, caring and stubborn all at the same time, let words and emotions affect him in a way I would have never imagined! It is also a great reminder on how solid a young man can be and still be influenced by words and emotions. My mind keeps going back to a saying from when we were kids that I feel needs to be stated differently. Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will forever hurt me.

Marsha Crane



The memories and fun I had with Max are endless, so trying to figure out where to start is no easy feat. With that said Max and I's friendship was really ignited on March 8th, 2018. I had known of Max and his outgoing personality since he started school at Maize South, but we really became close friends when he had approached me to shave his eyebrows off. Max had made a bet with someone at school to get a couple gallons of milk and chocolate milk if he would shave his eyebrows off and post it. I just so happened to be the lucky person that would get the privilege of shaving his eyebrows off. Little did I know that this silly little thing would be the beginning of a friendship that I will cherish forever. That day I really did just go over to his mom's house back in Wichita and simply shave off both of his eyebrows. After this Max was adamant that I go upstairs with him so that we could show his mom what we had done. I did not know at the time but I later realized how much it meant to Max for me to meet his mom. The relationship Max had with his mom is unlike any other. You could just tell by the way he talked about her and the way he looked at her when she was speaking. It was obvious when Max was talking to his mom there was nothing else that mattered, he gave every bit of attention to their conversations and it was a reality check for me. At that time in my life I was sort of rebellious and argumentative. I did not particularly appreciate my mom like I should. Through his relationship with his mom, Max helped me realize how important my relationship with my mom was.

Throughout our entire friendship Max constantly showed me the importance of love and appreciation of others. Max had a tremendous role in my development as a person. He never missed an opportunity to invite me to something whether it be grinding easter eggs on Call of Duty Zombies, going out to play softball at the fields, or convincing me to throw for the track and field team in high-school when I had no previous experience. I struggled for a majority of my childhood with feeling like I did not fit in with any groups, but the second I met Max, these struggles were gone. I had never felt so valued as a friend until Max approached me and invited me into his life with open arms. Aside from shaving his eyebrows off, two of my favorite memories I have with Max were both in high-school as well. The first being our spontaneous trip to worlds of fun with Clayton Pettera and Zach Saville. When they approached me with the idea I was so excited but disappointed because I was sure that my parents would not let me and my other sophomore friends who all just started driving, take a day trip to Kansas City and back. To my surprise they allowed me to go and within a couple weeks the four of us were meeting at the Maize South High School parking lot early in the morning to make our way to the amusement park. Max was very enthusiastic about taking his car because it was a hybrid and would get the best gas mileage. Naturally we all agreed and hit the road. That drive was one of the most exhilarating rides ever because I think we were all more focused on talking and having a good time than driving because three people made sure to flip us off. One lady was even standing halfway out her window just to make sure we knew how terrible our driving was. While at worlds of fun we took a small walk over to oceans of fun. It was here that we were the reason that they shut down the entire wave pool just because we were making our way too deep in the water. We got out of the pool the second the alarms sounded and we saw cops and lifeguards running towards us. They told us they stopped the waves because it looked like our friend Zach was drowning. We were all minors so we could not sign any release forms saying that we were good. They insisted that they had to take him to the hospital, but after a couple phone calls with his parents we were able to resume our day of fun. The time to leave approached so we went to grab our things and Clayton saw an opportunity to play a joke on Max. He snatched his keys and made Max think he had lost them. We kept passing the keys between each other so that he wouldn't catch on. We let the joke go on so long that Max went to the customer service to see if they were returned to the lost and found. We told him he had left them in the car and there we

06/30/2023

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I am writing this letter on behalf of a dear friend who lost her son too soon to suicide. I am learning that there is no law in Kansas regarding someone who texted another individual to take his own life. Even though I live in the State of Texas, I believe there needs to be a law passed to stop this type of bullying in our society. I am so happy that you have stood tall to help Jill out to help make a change, so others do not have to endure the pain that this mother has been through. I know enough about Jill that she will work tirelessly with you and your staff to help make this change a reality. Thank you for taking the time to meet with her and God bless you for helping pass a bill in the State of Kansas. My prayer is that other States will see your efforts and pass a law that will hold others accountable for their actions.

With Sincere Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Adams", written in a cursive style.

Mike Adams  
979-571-6212

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

There are many things I would rather be doing than writing a letter to you tonight. And here I sit writing the most important letter of my lifetime. I come from a very wealthy family. I don't mean that our family has money. No. Our wealth lies in our children. Each and every one precious. We lost my great nephew Max Coleman to suicide. Max was a smart, funny, loveable all-around great guy. I beg for your help in bringing change to the laws regarding encouraging suicide. Please save another family from the pain that ours is going through. Our family is left with a giant hole. We will never be the same. It is as if I lost a leg. I want to scream "Can't you see my leg is missing? Can't you see I am struggling? Can't you see me hopping on one leg? I can't function. I can't walk. Max is gone. And life will never be the same without him.

Warm regards,

Patsy Vaughan

To those this concerns,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today with a profound sense of urgency regarding the deeply troubling issue of coercion suicide in our great state of Kansas. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in taking a strong stance against the malicious act of talking someone into suicide, and work towards implementing measures to prevent such tragic occurrences.

Coercion suicide, whereby individuals are manipulated, coerced, or psychologically pressured into taking their own lives, is an abhorrent crime that preys upon the vulnerability and desperation of those already struggling with mental health challenges. It is essential that we, as a society, unequivocally denounce and combat this practice to protect our fellow Kansans and uphold justice and compassion.

Allow me to present some deeply disturbing statistics that shed light on the gravity of the situation in Kansas:

1.
  1. According to recent studies conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Human Services, it is estimated that approximately 15% of suicide cases in Kansas involve some form of coercion or psychological manipulation. This alarming figure demands immediate attention and action to prevent further harm to our community.
  2. In a statewide survey conducted by the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition, it was found that out of 100 suicide cases investigated in the past year, 25 of them involved explicit instances of coercion or manipulation. These numbers reveal the disturbing prevalence of coercion suicide and emphasize the urgent need to address this issue head-on.

The practice of talking someone into suicide not only violates the principles of empathy and humanity but also undermines efforts to promote mental health awareness, prevention, and support. To address this grave issue, I implore you to consider the following actions:

1. Review and strengthen existing laws: Conduct a comprehensive review of current legislation and consider the enactment of specific laws that

To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter asking the state of Kansas to enforce better laws to help prevent suicide. Please take action by improving the following in our state.

- Create a law holding those who urge another person to commit suicide fully accountable for taking that person's life. When someone is in this low of emotional state and someone is telling them their life isn't worth living, they are the weapon that takes this person's life and should be held accountable for the loss of this precious life. We need people to understand the state of Kansas will not allow the cruelty and evil of this level.
- Create a law that allows a child to take a "sick" day when they are struggling with their mental or emotional health. This is best for the child and the others at that school.
- Create a law that requires our children to take a class in school regarding suicide prevention. They need to understand how important their life is and how it impacts others if they were to leave this earth in this manner.
- Create a law requiring those who are in the medical profession to take training on suicide assessments, treatment and management. We need people who can better understand someone at risk and how to quickly get them the appropriate help.
- Create a law that our colleges and universities must have resources and services available at all hours for our students.
- Share more information with our state residents about the need for more people to get engaged on how to best support those who are suffering and the need for more professionals in this area of expertise. There are not enough resources/professionals available in this state for the number of people struggling.

Please make this is a critical action for our government. There is nothing more important than the lives of our children. The impact of each person who takes their life is unimaginable to the family and friends of those who knew that person and creates a ripple effect of hurt and pain in our communities.

Sincerely,  
Robin Merriman  
13501 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ct. N.  
Wichita, KS 67235  
316-207-8040  
[R2b2@live.com](mailto:R2b2@live.com)

Dear Friend,

On two separate occasions, suicide has touched our family. Both my brothers died by suicide 10.5 years apart. To watch my mother and family go through this horrible thing not once but twice prompts me to write this note to encourage you to prevent suicide in every way that you can. My prayer is that this will keep one more family from having to go through this. I want to encourage you to support legislation to hold accountable anyone who encourages another person to commit suicide. When a person is in need of help, they are extremely vulnerable to prompting. We have a responsibility to protect and help those who are most vulnerable. Please support this legislation.

Thank you,

Scott and Serenity Richard

6/26/2023

Dear Representative Hoheisel,

I am writing this letter on behalf of a friend who lost her son tragically to suicide when someone in the ultimate act of bullying repeatedly texted him telling him to take his own life. I did not know her son, but I love this friend dearly and feel no mother should be enduring this kind of pain. I was shocked to learn that there are no laws in the state of Kansas to hold someone accountable for their actions when someone takes advantage of an individual in a vulnerable state and it results in the loss of life. I have two children of my own who are 18 and 20 years old, almost the same age as my friend's son. My heart hurts that her son's life was cut short- all of the hopes, dreams, and the future for this child abruptly ended because the person on the other end of the text could hatefully encourage him to end his life with no accountability in the role they played. We are in a world now that people can say and do whatever they want behind the phone or computer screen without any accountability for their actions. Children and young adults today have more mental health needs and less coping skills than ever. But trying to get that help isn't easy or readily available. Why is educating someone on sex more readily available in schools than assessing the mental health of the students in the schools?

Someone commits a crime with a gun- we ask how they got the gun. A minor kills someone in a drunk driving accident- we ask who gave them the drinks. Someone texts someone repeatedly to take their own life- and the state of Kansas does not see this as a crime. This needs to be reviewed and changed.

It doesn't have to be this way. I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and consider the change that HAS to happen.

Sincerely,

  
Stacey Nehring

979-820-7202

As parents, we do our best to protect our children, and pray that they will find happiness and always be safe. We trust and pray that the friends they surround themselves with, will be there for them in good times and bad. Sadly, that is not always the case, and that is why I am writing this letter to you.

Max Isaiah Coleman was my Great-Nephew, He was born on January 15, 2002, and ended his life on April 14, 2023 at his apartment in Wichita, Kansas. Max had a smile that could melt your heart, he loved to make people laugh, pulled for the underdog and was very loyal to those he loved. He also was smart as a whip! At 21, he felt he had found a girl that was "the one"! She was his first love. The relationship was on again, off again & Max was having a hard time dealing with the current break up.

Jill Janes, Max's Mom, lives in Conroe, TX - which is a 10 hour drive from Wichita, KS. On April 13th, she sensed a change in Max, and felt the need to drive to Wichita immediately. She loaded up her 3 younger children, without packing, and continued to speak with Max on the phone throughout the drive. He eventually told her that he was tired, and thought he maybe could sleep. He assured her that he would keep the phone by him, so she could call. Unfortunately, Jill was not the last person Max spoke to that night, his phone records show that he tried to text his ex-girlfriend, stating that he needed to speak with her, as he was having some suicidal thoughts. Another person texted back, stating that they were this girl's new boyfriend, and to leave her alone. Max and the supposed boyfriend (the ex-girlfriend admitted that it was just one of her friends that was a girl), texted back and forth, The supposed boyfriend told Max to go ahead and kill himself and get it over with.

Jill found Max when she arrived at his apartment early that morning. He had taken the supposed boyfriend's advice.

As a parent, I cannot imagine knowing that the last words your son heard, were the callous and hateful words, "go ahead, kill yourself..get it over with". In reaching out to this ex-girlfriend, I feel that Max was looking for some compassion and a reason to live. Had she reacted in a different way, instead of having her girlfriend pretend to be her boyfriend and encourage Max to take his life - quite possibly, Max would be here with us today.

Max was an impressive young man, I know he would have left his mark on this world in a positive way, had he lived. We will never know what all he could have accomplished. This was a senseless death, made even more shattering because of a young lady's immaturity, flippancy, and lack of compassion. We need to make people aware that words can be weapons, and just like any weapon - they can kill!

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Vicki Short  
9466 Lake Conroe Dr.  
Conroe, TX 77304



To Representative Hoheisel and Whom It May Concern:

As a young child, I was always fascinated with the Grand Canyon. It was beyond me how something as still and gentle as water could create such a vast void. Since then, I have seen intense floods and powerful storms that leave me with no question that water could erode with such force. When we try to understand what happened to Max, we must consider how something as still and gentle as a typed message could be so fatally detrimental. The way that we speak to each other and allow one another to be treated is an ongoing force that is eroding people we love every day.

Max was nineteen when we first met. His genuinity and out-of-the-box humor were the first two things I noticed about him. In one of our first times at his apartment together, someone made a comment that they couldn't believe that Max and I had almost identical senses of humor. That was, and always will be, one of my favorite compliments. His laughter was contagious and he brought out the best in me on days I didn't know if I could keep going. Like almost anyone else, I would do anything to have done the same for him.

Almost a year ago, Max gave me what I would argue as the best advice I've received in my twenty years. Our conversation allowed me to grow into someone I could love which has changed my life tenfold for the better. The genuine quality I spotted in the beginning was ever so consistent- anyone who had the chance to be close to him would vouch for that. If you were loved by Max Coleman, he made sure you knew it.

My world has gotten dimmer since he passed. I spend a lot of nights wishing I would have known sooner or had the courage to have a conversation about where he was truly at. Anything would have been better than begging for someone I love and admire to wake up and knowing it wasn't going to happen. There were so many things I was looking forward to with him. When our friends had their son, we would have laughed about how we saw it coming years ago. He certainly would not have let the opportunity to celebrate my graduation in Manhattan go unmissed, either. Because Max was encouraged to take his life, one of my best friends and favorite parts of living is missing.

Our modern world has created a vicinity for unhinged cruelty and inhumanity on the internet and social media. As someone who has grown up online, I can attest that there really is no sure-fire way to hide from all of the hurtful comments that are made. Max, like many others in my generation, fell victim to that. We have become so vulnerable to criticism in part because of the platforms that have been introduced and promoted to us. I am firmly of the opinion that these circumstances make it the state of Kansas' duty to protect its people by enacting laws that prohibit and penalize such offensive acts. The legislation is to serve its citizens in its application, and cases like Max's emphasize why change is needed in our state. Right now, the eroding waters of online cruelty are working against Kansans of all demographics and we can see it in




Hello, my name is Alyssa Blase. To be honest, I have no idea when I met Max, all I know is it was sometime during highschool. I've been depressed for years and he is one of the only people to make me laugh no matter how I was feeling. When I found out he passed I made my Uber pull over because I couldn't breathe. I got drunk and debating killing myself. I've struggled with suicide for a few years.

Why this is so important...

Last December I was going through a horrible rough patch. Two of the people closest to me doubted that I was really suicidal. They kept taunting me and calling me horrible things to try and get me to kill myself. I had a gun to my head. I'm not sure why I stopped. I could have easily been Max, and he could have been me. His death has made me contemplate why I'm alive and not someone so amazing and impactful such as Max.

People are cowards. With the power of the internet they can continue to say what they wish without the confrontation. There needs to be consequences. This is murder.

Alyssa Blase

I am writing this email to have people held accountable for their actions to cause harm in others. People like Max do not deserve this and many more. I hope you actually hear the message from not just me, but from many others as well. R.I.P to Max 

Thank you,  
Ethan Weems

I wanted to start by saying how much max has impacted me in the three short years I knew him. The first time I met him he showed up to our dorm wearing the most ridiculous outfit (knowing he could care less) but just radiating with happiness. At first I never understood his sense of humor or witty personality but it later became my favorite thing about him. He was someone I could always count on to have the deepest or most lighthearted conversations with. We could talk about life, breaking bad or lost, and so much more. He was interested in getting to know people more than surface level. Max had a drive unlike anyone I've ever met. He was constantly learning a new trade or skill and experimenting with various jobs. He never settled and had so many goals in life he wanted to achieve. He worked so hard in life. This is just a short list of the many things I love about max and so did many other people.

As many now know, max was in a toxic and abusive relationship. He didn't let many people in or wanted to show his struggles. In his last moments, max reached out for help, begging for someone to talk to and ask for forgiveness. Rather than answering with kindness or compassion, he was met with words that resulted in him taking his own life. The pain he felt was so great that he didn't think he could stay here on this earth. The pain was so great that a person's words convinced him to follow through. This was the last person he ever spoke to. These words were enough for him in that moment to do it. On April 14, 2023 max took his life. It breaks my heart that the last words he heard were to kill himself, rather than I love you's or were here for you. In those few short texts/phone calls a very different outcome could have happened. Max was looking for help. Words hurt and there needs to be change. People should be held accountable and understand the severity of their words and how much they have an impact.

I now will never get to see him again, hear his laugh, wake up seeing him on my couch, or go on drives blasting the most ridiculous music. I find comfort knowing max is no longer hurting and this pain is finally over for him. I wish I could talk to him one last time, but I know he is looking down being the biggest supporter. I love you always.

Mallory Wilson

I did not know Max Coleman but his heartbroken grandparents are dear friends. I was devastated to learn that Max had acted on messages urging him to commit suicide. I have a 21 year old granddaughter who has mental health issues and I am extremely concerned that something similar could happen to her.

In this age of technology I can see how easily this could occur and it is very frightening. I respectfully ask that you enact measures which will hold persons responsible for encouraging another to commit suicide whether in person or by use of digital technology.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat South