



SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH IN LOUISIANA BY:

ADDRESSING THE EMOTIONAL TOLL OF CYBERBULLYING IN RELATION TO SUICIDE

In today's digital world, teenagers face many social hardships such as cyberbullying. Cyberbullying leads to low self-esteem, physical pain, and poor academic performance. Unfortunately, teenagers lack the skills to cope with these hardships, and feel suicide is the only option. Teen suicide is a major problem for Southwest Louisiana and for the state. Cyberbullying and its effects are overlooked until a victim chooses suicide. Our society should not have to grieve the loss of a loved one, friend, or peer in order for people to begin paying attention to this problem.

THE CURRENT PICTURE...

- Louisiana is ranked 12th in the Nation for suicide rates
- The National Youth Violence Prevention Center indicates that 1 out of 5 teens thought about suicide; 1 out of 6 made plans; and 1 out of 12 attempted suicide.
- National statistics indicate that students nearly 1 in 3, are involved in bullying.
- Only 1 in 10 victims of cyberbullying tell their parents or a trusted adult about being bullied.
- Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied, 1 in 4 of our peers are being bullied repeatedly.

AS YOUNG PEOPLE OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- Utilize existing non-profit organizations to increase education to raise awareness regarding the consequences of cyberbullying.
- Elongate the prison sentence and raise the fine for Law 14:40.3. Then, use the surplus money collected through via the fine to help start more programs and organizations to prevent cyberbullying.
- Ensure all middle school and high school counselors, administrators, and teachers partake in bully prevention training to spot the signs of suicide.
- Support the growth of more local teen programs, under the guidance of community youth, where teens can spend time and receive help if needed.