



# Let's talk...

**MAY 2010 A Newsletter from the Kentucky Suicide Prevention Group, Inc.**



## TWO SUICIDE PREVENTION BILLS PASS

Steve Ulrich was a very busy man during this past legislative session. And if that comes as news to you then you have not been to any recent KSPG meetings.

Thanks to Steve's initiative to contact his state senator about suicide prevention, Senate Bill 65 was introduced by Dan Seum and Jack Westwood. It was

passed unanimously and signed by Governor Beshear on April 13th. Beginning this school year every

principal, guidance counselor, and teacher will complete a minimum of two hours of instruction in suicide prevention. Negotiations are in process between the Department of Education and the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to provide QPR as the required training.

The other bill passed, House Bill 51, requires every public middle and high school administrator to disseminate suicide prevention awareness information to all middle and high school students by September 1, 2010, and September 1 of each year thereafter. Thanks to Representatives L. Belcher, T. Riner, D. Horlander, B. Montell, R. Nelson, R. Palumbo, J. Tilley, D. Watkins, and B. Yonts who sponsored this bill. There were ninety-seven YES votes and was signed by the governor on March 4th.

Please take the time to thank your state legislators for supporting these important milestones in suicide prevention here in the Commonwealth.

*Legislative Message Line 800-372-7181*

In March 2002 KSPPG began. That is not a typo—it began as the Kentucky Suicide Prevention *Planning* Group. After a while we realized that the group was doing more than planning. Members were advocating, teaching, raising awareness, and taking an active leadership in the suicide prevention effort in Kentucky. The continuing evolution of KSPG thus began with the support of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. As this group has continued to evolve, it now has taken the next step in becoming KSPG, Inc. Yes, we are now incorporated. This status brings some changes that include the ability to accept monetary donations. We are in the process of filing for our 501c3 status that will make those donations tax deductible. With this new phase comes a natural emancipation from the state offices that have been so supportive. Big thanks goes to Michael McFarland and Jan Ulrich. They will continue to be our liaisons with the Department which is graciously allowing us to continue with monthly meetings at the Fair Oaks location. Watch for more information as KSPG continues with this exciting move of independence.

