**Script for Use in Conversations with Georgia State Legislators**

AFSP Georgia 2021 Advocacy Experience

BEGIN CALL

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I live in [name of city/county] [and I am a constituent of yours.] I am a volunteer advocate with the Georgia chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and our mission is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to speak with you today about our policy objectives for this Session of the General Assembly. I am proposing the following agenda for our call:

* An explanation of why suicide awareness and prevention is important to me
* A brief overview of data on suicidality
* Our public policy objectives for this Session of the General Assembly

Does this sound okay to you?

Also, please feel free to interrupt if you have a question or need further clarity.

Personal Connection:

Suicide awareness and prevention is important to me because [speak about your connection, perhaps taking some information from your vignette].

Data on Suicidality (refer to handout):

* Suicide is the 10th leading overall cause of death in the U.S.
* Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among those ages 10-34
* Suicide is an "equal opportunity affecter" in that no particular demographic is spared; that said:
	+ There are groups with higher suicide rates, including military veterans, persons living in rural communities, LGB and TNB (transgender/non-binary) persons, and persons with eating disorders.
* 1,585 Georgians died by suicide in 2019
	+ On average, each suicide death affects more than 130 persons – e.g., family, friends, classmates, work colleagues, first responders
	+ On average, for each suicide death more than 320 persons attempt suicide, plan suicide, or have serious thoughts about suicide

Public Policy Objectives

As set out in the one-page (front and back) document, we have three policy areas, each with one or two specific objectives.

Do you have any questions or comments?

In closing, let me thank you again for your time and interest and please contact me with any questions or if you need any information.

END CALL