

The memories and fun I had with Max are endless. This makes finding a starting point very difficult. Max and I's friendship was ignited on March 8th, 2018. I had known of Max and his outgoing personality since he started school at Maize South, but we became close friends when he approached me to shave his eyebrows off. Max had made a bet with someone at school to get a couple of 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 who would get the privilege of shaving his eyebrows. Little did I know that this silly little thing would be the beginning of a friendship that I will cherish forever. That day I went over to his mom's house back in Wichita and simply shaved off both of his eyebrows. After this Max was adamant that I go upstairs with him to 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 has with his mom is unlike any other. You could tell by how he talked about her. This served as a reality check for me. At that time in my life, I was rebellious and argumentative. I did not appreciate my mom like I should. Through his relationship with his mom, Max helped me realize how important my relationship with my mom was and that I should cherish every moment. Throughout our entire friendship, Max constantly showed me the importance of love and appreciation of others. Max played 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, playing 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 the majority of my childhood with feeling like I did not fit in with any groups, but the second I met Max, these struggles vanished. I had never felt so valued as a friend until Max approached me and invited me into his life with open arms. Mental health is the defining health crisis of our time. According to the CDC, nearly 50,000 Americans died by suicide last year,

more than any year on record. 78% of these 50,000 are younger Americans with so much life yet to live. This Bill has the power to be preventative. It will discourage those who think the right thing to do is assist or persuade others into thinking the only option is suicide.