



MEDIA ADVISORY
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Governor Dannel Malloy Supports Sandy Hook Promise's "Say Something" Week

*Public Proclamation from Gov. Malloy on Thursday, October 22
1200 people from Danbury School Create Logo, Friday, October 23*

When it comes to acts of violence, including suicide and threats to others, most are communicated in some way before the incident occurs. In fact, in 4 out of 5 school shootings, the attacker told people of his/her plans ahead of time and 70% of people who die by suicide told someone of their intention or gave some type of warning or indication. Imagine how many of these tragedies could be averted if someone said something?

That's the problem Sandy Hook Promise wants to solve. Their free program, "Say Something", teaches students in grades 6 -12 how to recognize warning signs, signals and threats, especially in social media, from friends or individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others and then to intervene and Say Something to a trusted adult to get help.

"Most of the time, warning signs of violence are communicated in advance, such as on social media, or can be observed in a person's behavior. Unfortunately, not everyone knows what to do with that information," said Mark Barden, Managing Director of Sandy Hook Promise and father of 7-year-old Daniel Barden who was killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. "Young people are the eyes and ears of their schools and community. We can teach them how to properly identify and report threats, keeping themselves, their friends and their family safe. They have the power to save lives."

Governor Dannel P. Malloy agrees that the program can be hugely beneficial to schools across Connecticut. "I'm inspired to see such a positive and beneficial program developed from the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. We know that early identification and intervention can make a huge difference in a person's life, especially if they are moving along the violence continuum. Teens and adolescents can really help each other and their schools by looking after each other and taking action when they see, read or hear something that could lead to violence or demonstrates other at-risk behaviors. The "Say Something" program does more than prevent violence and gun violence. It can help students with a multitude of social and behavioral issues that they may face every day."

Governor Mallow is proclaiming the week of October 19-23 as “Say Something Week” and will be making the proclamation official at XX school in Danbury on Thursday, October 22. Participating schools and students, as well as members of Sandy Hook Promise, will also be attending.

Broadview Middle School in Danbury is celebrating “Say Something” by implementing the training in their school and culminating with a “Wear Green for Say Something” day on Friday, October 23. At 9:00am that day, all 1200 attending students and staff will form the “Say Something” logo on the field between the school and Danbury Hospital. Mark Barden of Sandy Hook Promise and Mayor Mark D. Boughton will also be attending.

Media are invited to attend both events.

To participate in “Say Something Week” or to implement Say Something training at another time, schools and youth organizations across the country are encouraged to register at www.sandyhookpromise.org/saysomethingweek. Schools and youth organizations that participate during the week of October 19-23 may also be eligible to apply for a special \$10,000 “Say Something” award.

By registering, schools and youth organizations will be given digital access to no-cost and easy to implement Say Something training materials, presentations and a planning guide. The training can be done in an assembly, classroom or through student leaders and only takes 25-45 minutes. If help is needed, Sandy Hook Promise can work with the school to deliver the program and/or provide a trainer, if available. All training materials and resources are completely free.

The program is based on research conducted by Dr. Dewey Cornell and Dr. Reid Meloy, two leading national experts in threat assessment and intervention.

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About Sandy Hook Promise

Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) is a national, nonprofit organization based in Newtown, Connecticut. We are led by several family members whose loved ones were killed in the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012 that claimed the lives of 20 first-graders and 6 educators. Sandy Hook Promise is focused on preventing gun violence (and all violence) *BEFORE* it happens by educating and mobilizing parents, schools and communities on mental health and wellness programs that identify, intervene and help at-risk individuals. SHP is a moderate, above-the-politics organization that supports sensible non-policy and policy solutions that protect children and prevent gun violence. Our intent is to honor all victims of gun violence by turning our tragedy into a moment of transformation. Make the Promise at www.sandyhookpromise.org

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