



United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II Northern District of West Virginia

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U.S. ATTORNEY ANNOUNCES DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA

Senator Rockefeller, school officials endorse Project FUTURE

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA – With the support of Senator Jay Rockefeller and local school administrators, U.S. Attorney William Ihlenfeld, II announced a new drug education and outreach program on Monday known as *Project FUTURE: The Right Prescription for West Virginia*. According to Ihlenfeld, Project Future is a comprehensive strategy designed to educate parents and children about the dangers of prescribed medicine, synthetic drugs, and other illegal drugs that are plaguing communities in West Virginia.

In addition to Senator Rockefeller and school officials, other partners in the initiative are the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and Drug Free Clubs of America.

“Prescription drug abuse, especially among students, is a public health crisis in West Virginia and around the country. It hurts our children, our families and our communities. I have acted on multiple fronts to tackle this epidemic, from talking to students about their experiences to making sure federal dollars are flowing into West Virginia so we can work together to stem the tide,” said Senator Rockefeller. “That is why I appreciate the work U.S. Attorney Ihlenfeld is doing on this issue. Project Future is a wonderful program, giving students and parents the tools they need to take a stand against prescription drug abuse. I encourage everyone —students, parents, neighbors and community leaders — to get involved in making sure it is a success.”

“The goal of Project Future is for every child to live a life free from drug abuse, and we plan to achieve that goal through education, enforcement, and proper medication disposal,” said Ihlenfeld.

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Over the next year Ihlenfeld will be traveling to middle schools and high schools throughout the Northern District to educate young people about the dangers of drugs. Special guest speakers with real-life experience in dealing with addiction will be a part of each program. In addition, community awareness meetings will be held in the evening so that parents are aware of warning signs that their children may be using drugs. A discussion of emerging trends and threats, including synthetic drugs, will be held at each event.

Speakers at upcoming events include:

- **Phil Bauer**, who will tell the tale of how he lost his 18-year old son to prescription drug abuse.
- **Philicia Barbieri**, a recovering addict and former teacher at the Pittsburgh School for the Creative and Performing Arts, who will discuss her struggles with addiction and how it led her to a life of crime.
- **Wayne Campbell**, founder of Tyler's Light, who will talk about how drugs took the life of his 23 year old son.

Programs at Brooke High School, Wheeling Park High School, John Marshall High School, and Magnolia High School have been scheduled in October and November for both students and parents. Ihlenfeld said that he plans to hold events in each of the thirty-two counties in his district and he welcomes schools to contact his office at 304-234-0100 if they wish to participate in the program.

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