



Sponsored By:

Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick Lynch

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning

Adopted

Summer Meeting

June 17-19, 2008

Providence, Rhode Island

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE EDUCATION

WHEREAS Teen dating violence is a pattern of controlling and abusive behavior of one person over another within a romantic relationship including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse; and,

WHEREAS Lack of dating experience allows teens to be more vulnerable to dating violence where they are less likely to recognize the abuse; and,

WHEREAS Teen dating violence has become a prevalent problem in high schools, junior high schools and middle schools throughout our country, with one in three teens experiencing some kind of abuse in their romantic relationships; and,

WHEREAS Girls and women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of intimate partner violence and of the young murdered each year between the ages of 15 to 19 thirty percent are killed by their boyfriend or husband; and,

WHEREAS Recent studies have shown that teen dating violence is starting at an early age with 11 to 14 year olds able to identify aspects of teen dating abuse in their social lives; and,

WHEREAS Early sexual experiences can be a precursor to dating violence and abuse among older teens and can perpetuate a culture of acceptance of this type of behavior; and,

WHEREAS Abuse and violence in intimate partner relationships not only causes great individual pain, but also breaks down families, communities and society at large; and,

WHEREAS Education is the best mechanism to stop teen dating violence and is crucial to create a culture of intolerance for teen dating abuse:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL:

1. Endorses the Lindsay Ann Burke Act (Rhode Island 2007 Public Laws, Chapters 287 and 490), which provides that each public school district implement a curriculum and policy on teen dating violence and abuse.

2. Encourages states to:

a. Work with local school districts to devise and implement teen dating violence education policies;

b. Recommend that these policies include a mission statement emphasizing that dating violence is unacceptable and will not be tolerated as well as the establishment of procedures, guidelines and discipline procedures to respond to incidents taking place at school or on school grounds;

c. Urge school districts to incorporate dating violence education into health education curriculums in middle and or high school;