The Peace Alliance

STUDENT PEACE ALLIANCE

Youth PROMISE Act Talking Points

Please Note: *These talking points are for use in messaging and preparation for lobbying meetings.*

- ❒ This is common sense legislation.
- ❒ We need to make reducing and preventing violence a national priority.
- ❒ In these challenging economic times, we must find new and innovative ways to save money and maximize the effectiveness of every dollar spent. Reducing and preventing violence and expanding our capacity for nonviolent conflict resolution has the potential to save the nation hundreds of billions of dollars each year, increase our national security, and build a greater base of responsible citizenship.
- ❒ Current levels of violence in our nation are fiscally, environmentally and ethically unsustainable.
- ❒ Scientific and medical experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have said, "Violence is not an insurmountable problem; it can be prevented through a thoughtful, systematic approach." The Youth PROMISE Act gives communities the platform and resources from which to launch such an approach, thus saving billions of dollars and millions of lives each year.
- ❒ Domestically, we suffer from a plague of school shootings and bullying, domestic violence, sexual assault, and gang violence. In the U.S., youth homicide rates are more than ***10 times*** that of other first-world countries, and a World Health Organization report estimates the cost of interpersonal violence in the U.S. is in excess of $300 billion a year. We must apply new skills and practices to dealing with violence if we are to save money and lives.
- ❒ According to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an average of 16 young people are murdered every day in America—they didn't die in a car crash, they didn't die of a drug overdose, they were murdered. That's more American young-people dying every day due to violence in the so-called safety of their own neighborhoods than we have service men and women dying in Iraq due to a war.
- ❒ Although there is a wealth of genius in our nation to deal with these crucial issues, the best thinking of the American People concerning violence prevention is not reflected in our national and local policies.
- ❒ The Youth PROMISE Act will support proven methods for reducing and preventing all forms of violence; this will result in prudent and conservative fiscal policy.
- ❒ It has been asked, Why is it that so many people are violent, but not illiterate? And the answer given is because we teach our children to read. Violent behavior is learned; nonviolent conflict resolution can also be taught and learned. The Youth PROMISE Act can provide us with the resources and focus needed to do that.
- ❒ We must expand our capacity to resolve conflict before it erupts into violence
- ❒ Policy-making today tends to reactive rather than proactive. We wait for violence to occur, and then turn to our already over-taxed military and police and ask them to fix it. We must shift the focus from reaction to prevention, allowing us to save billions of dollars and countless lives each year.
- ❒ Conflict is inevitable; violence is not.

Phone: 202-684-2553• www.the**peace**alliance.org • info@the**peace**alliance.org
www.student**peace**alliance.org • spa@the**peace**alliance.org
PO Box 27601 • Washington, District of Columbia 20038