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PITTSBURGH -- A Pittsburgh area father took his battle against teen dating violence to national TV Monday.

Gary Cuccia, the father of Gateway cheerleader Demi Cuccia, appeared on the 'Today Show.'

Demi was stabbed to death in 2007 by her ex-boyfriend in her family's living room.

Gary Cuccia wants a federal law to be passed to educate young people about dating violence.

"We need to do something, we live in a different time now. We need to empower children with some form of tools to protect themselves and education is a good place to start," Cuccia said.

In March, the Pennsylvania State House passed a bill that would integrate teenage dating violence education into middle and high school curriculums.

Cuccia's ex-boyfriend, John Mullarkey, who was 17-years-old at the time of the stabbing, is now 21 and is serving a life sentence.

The teen dating violence bill passed by the state house is now waiting for final approval from the state senate.

If it passes, the bill will be named the 'Demi Brae Cuccia Law.'

Previous Stories:

- April 13, 2010: [Pittsburgh City Council Supports Cuccia Bill On Dating Violence](#)
- March 23, 2010: [Mt. Lebanon Commissioners Support Cuccia Bill](#)
- September 14, 2007: [Gateway Plays First Home Game Since Cheerleader's Death](#)
- September 14, 2007: [Teen Accused In Cheerleader's Stabbing Appears In Court](#)
- August 20, 2007: [Community Says Goodbye To Slain Cheerleader](#)

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