

Rep. Conklin Pushing Teen Violence Bill

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Reported by: Angie Koehle
Wednesday, October 06 2010



HARRISBURG - Pittsburgh area doctor Gary Cuccia joined Representative Scott Conklin at the capital Tuesday to advocate for House Bill 2026. His daughter, 16 year old Demi Cuccia was murdered by an ex-boyfriend 3 years ago. The bill is named after her.

"I can tell you the pain of losing a child to a violent homicide is second to none," Dr. Cuccia said.

Representative Scott Conklin said a lot has changed since the days of having one phone in a house.

"I can remember my father telling my sisters if the boy called after 8 o' clock at night , you're not talking. Or if they call more than once or twice a day, you can't talk any more," Rep. Conklin, (D) Centre said.

Victim's advocate Cheryl Gonsman visits schools to talk about domestic abuse.

"When i first go in and say to them does anybody know someone or are they themselves involved in a domestic violence situation, none of them raise their hands until I'm done giving them the facts with what it is and what it isn't," she said.

17 year old Brittney Boyles of Altoona said she was lucky and she got out of a verbally abusive relationship thanks to Gonsman's school visit.

"You need to know the signs. Just because you don't think you're getting abused, doesn't mean you aren't. It will turn to violence," Boyles said.

Conklin is urging the passing of this bill, so more teens end up like Brittney and less end up like Demi.

"It tells them if someone is texting you, being controlling, asking where you're at, there's something wrong with that relationship," Rep. Conklin said.

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