



Contact: Elyse Boland
Tel. 304.673.5909
Email: elyse.boland@notuswv.com
Date: 12/5/18

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEST VIRGINIA STUDENT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Students from all over WV to gather at state capitol in symbolic stand against drug epidemic

The "Not Us" Movement to call hundreds of West Virginia's "Millennial and Generation Z" students to the state's capitol steps in a symbolic stand against the growing drug epidemic. College, high school, and junior high students will gather from all over the state to declare their commitment to be the generation that ends the cycle of drug addiction in the state of West Virginia.

The Not Us Student Day at the Capitol is January 17, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. on the West Virginia capitol steps. Any West Virginia student may attend free of cost and the event may be considered an excused absence (decided county by county), per the West Virginia State Board of Education. A resolution will be read on the house and senate floor by Not Us representatives.

The Not Us Movement is a grassroots drug prevention/awareness movement and social media campaign. Not Us utilizes real-life stories to expose the horrors of the WV drug epidemic on it's youngest victims, and seeks to give a voice to the next generation through the platform of social media. Not Us encourages college and high school students to utilize "peer pressure in reverse" to warn and inspire elementary and junior high students of the dangers of drug addiction prior to their adolescence. The Not Us Movement is one aspect of the three-part strategy of The Safehaven Campaign, founded by Melodi Hawley of Beckley, West Virginia.

"The Not Us movement is about putting a face on the staggering statistics," Hawley said.

"We use real-life stories to highlight the horrors of what's happening to West Virginia's children because of this unprecedented drug epidemic," Melodi Hawley stated.

Hawley concludes, "West Virginia's children are suffering and, the truth is, despite the previous generations' best efforts to stop this, we have failed and the problem is only getting worse. But what if we could get ahead of the drug epidemic? What if we could move from a defensive posture to an offensive one? I'm crazy enough to believe we can and I believe the key to that is inspiring and equipping the next generation to have a voice. I believe the answer to saving our state is found in the next generation. We want to empower them to be the generation that ends drug addiction in West Virginia. Because enough is enough."

About the Not Us Movement

[The Not Us Movement is a part of the Safehaven Campaign, and a division of The Church United in West Virginia, a licensed 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The campaign began and is now run by a group of 500 plus volunteers – men and women from a variety of occupations. We are made up of medical professionals, stay-at-home moms, social workers, therapists, creatives, skilled laborers, public servants, students, teachers, and everything in-between! We pool our resources, talents, influences and experiences together for the cause. To learn more visit www.notuswv.com, safehavenwv.com or email us at info@notuswv.com.

###

