



U.S. Congressman
Nick Rahall
WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEPHEN SPINA

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1989

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RAHALL INTRODUCES "DRUG FREE SCHOOLS" BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- Congressman Nick J. Rahall, II (D-WV), yesterday introduced legislation to turn the tide in the "Drug War" in America's schoolyards. The Drug Free School Zone Act of 1989 has been referred to the House Education and Labor Committee on which Rahall serves as a ranking member.

"This bill will put those who would destroy our children's lives on notice, 'You sell drugs on or around our schoolgrounds, you go to jail.' It's a simple message that even the lowest life forms can and better understand," Rahall said. "Let us declare war on drugs, but make certain one of the first battlelines is America's schoolyards."

Rahall's "Drug Free School Zones" Bill would rely on States to enact stricter prison terms for drug traffickers who were caught on or near school zones, assist school officials in cooperating with law enforcement agencies, aid with public information of state school safety laws, cooperate with advisory councils on drug abuse education and prevention, educate all school personnel and students that illegal drug activities will not be tolerated, and would create a program to post signs designating areas as drug free zones.

"This bill incorporates many approaches to address the drug crisis: enforcement, educational programs for schools and communities, but most of all the psychological edge is paramount," said Rahall. "Just as children learn that red means 'stop' and green means 'go', so should they learn that when a 'no drugs' area is around, it means they are safe, safe from those who would force them to buy drugs, and safe from the peer pressure that makes them experiment."

Rahall's legislation calls upon States to formulate Drug Free School Zones programs which would then be funded by the federal government through the Congressman's bill. Funding will be provided by the more than \$8 billion recently appropriated by the Congress. West Virginia State Delegate Dale Manuel (D-40th District, Jefferson Co.) has legislation pending before the State Legislature that would create such zones.

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CMAN is this ok? yes

Will you call 3 reporters on this we will

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give you

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1989

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Names?

will try to

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cc: him on this P.R.