

For Immediate Release

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**MINORITY LEADER CAFERO HEADLINE
'COURAGE TO SPEAK'
*LOCAL ORGANIZATION COMBATS YOUTH DRUG USE***

NORWALK – State Rep. Lawrence F. Cafero Jr., a longtime advocate of youth support groups, will emcee annual The Courage To Speak “Empowering Youth to be Drug Free” Family Night a drug-free program at the West Rocks Middle School in Norwalk Tuesday March 6.

Cafero, the Republican House Leader, will help highlight the group’s third annual program that is designed to raise awareness about youthful prevention programs and the dangers of substance abuse.

“I’m delighted to be able to lend a hand to help this wonderful organization that does so much in the area of youth substance abuse. We all have first-hand knowledge of the devastation and tragedy that can take place if we as parents and mentors are not vigilant when it comes to our young people,” Cafero said. “We must all take responsibility for dealing with this issue, in our homes and our communities.”

The Courage To Speak Foundation Inc., was founded by President Ginger Katz of Norwalk who lost a son to a drug overdose. The organization is committed to helping young people and their families address substance abuse issues so that others do not have to suffer the same tragedy.

This year’s festive event will highlight the outstanding work of Norwalk’s fourth and seventh graders. Joining the evening’s agenda will Norwalk Mayor Richard Moccia and Chief of Police Harry Rilling. The Norwalk police department was instrumental in providing Courage To Speak with drug dealer forfeiture money to help support the group’s curriculum.

Also on hand will be Norwalk Superintendent of Schools Sal Corda as well as district principals, teachers, members of the business community as well as other local elected officials.

The event will take place beginning with dinner at 5:30 p.m Tuesday evening. The event is open to the community.

The organization’s drug prevention curriculum and will be on display including posters and the Community Leadership and Recognition Awards will be presented. The new book called *Sunny's Story* written by Ginger Katz will be launched at this event. For more information visit www.couragetospeak.org.