

# Memorandum



Subject:  2018 Student Pledge Against Gun Violence  October 17, 2018	Date:  August 29-31, 2018
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TO:  
South Carolina School Principals  
Police Chiefs  
Sheriffs  
Safe and Drug Free School Coordinators  
Guidance Counselors  
School Resource Officers  
Law Enforcement Training Officers

FROM:  
Sherri A. Lydon  
United States Attorney  
District of South Carolina

We invite you to join the United States Attorney's Office and schools across South Carolina in observing the National Day of Concern for Young People and Gun Violence on October 17, 2018, by participating in **South Carolina's 17th Annual Student Pledge Against Gun Violence**. Last year, over 10,000 students from schools across the state participated in the pledge.

### **What is the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence?**

The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence is held in conjunction with the National Day of Concern for Young People and Gun Violence, which honors the role that young people, through their own decisions, can play in reducing gun violence. This campaign against youth gun violence provides a means for beginning the conversation with young people about gun violence. Upon request, the United States Attorney's Office will e-mail you a personalized pledge certificate signed by the United States Attorney, which you can print for each of your students to sign. In addition to having students recite and sign the pledge, we also encourage you to take the opportunity to talk with your students about school gun violence, responsible choices, and good decision-making. By giving students the opportunity to sign the pledge in the company of their peers, knowing that other students across the state and nation are doing the same, we can hopefully foster a dialogue about the toll of gun violence on their generation and encourage them to stop the violence.

### **How Do We Participate?**

If you would like to participate, please complete the attached request form and return it to:

Kelly Reynolds

Fax: 864-233-3158 OR e-mail: [Kelly.Reynolds@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kelly.Reynolds@usdoj.gov)

Please copy AUSA Emily Limehouse, PSN Coordinator: [Emily.Limehouse@usdoj.gov](mailto:Emily.Limehouse@usdoj.gov)

***Completed request forms must be received by September 28, 2018, in order to be processed.***

**Will I Receive A Printable Pledge Certificate By E-Mail?**

Yes. Due to budget constraints, we are unable to print and mail the individual pledge certificates. Instead, you will receive an email with a personalized pledge certificate attached in pdf format. The certificate will be personalized with your school name and your participating law enforcement agency, if any. You can then print the individual pledge certificates for your students to sign and take home. Please note that there is a different pledge for students in grade levels 1-5 than for students in grade levels 6-12. On the request form, please let us know which pledge form you need and the total approximate number of students in your school who will be participating so we can track each year's participation.

**Would You Like A Speaker?**

If you are interested in having a speaker to talk to your students on Pledge Day, please check the box at the bottom of the Pledge Certificate Request form, and we will contact you to make arrangements. ***There are a limited number of speakers available, so they are provided on a first come/first serve basis.*** Our speakers consist of Assistant United States Attorneys and/or Law Enforcement Officers.

If you need additional information about the Pledge, please contact Kelly Reynolds at 864-282-2139. You may obtain additional information about the National Day of Concern, along with ideas for activities, at [www.pledge.org](http://www.pledge.org). As always, we appreciate your continued support of this important program.