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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT OBSERVES "DAY OF NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUN VIOLENCE"

ORANGEBURG, S.C. — In a united stand against the rising tide of gun violence affecting our schools, Orangeburg County School District will be observing a "Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence" on October 18, 2023. Aligning with millions of students nationwide, our district is championing the cause to end gun violence, allowing our students to participate actively in ensuring their safety and the safety of those around them.

From Honolulu to New York City, students will voluntarily sign a pivotal pledge affirming their commitment to resolving disputes peacefully and influencing their peers to do the same.

The pledge states: *"I will never carry a gun to school; I will never use a gun to settle a personal problem or dispute; and I will use my influence with my friends to keep them from using guns to settle disputes."*

A tailored pledge is provided for our elementary-aged children to foster early awareness and responsibility.

The commitment to this cause comes at a crucial time when schools across the nation are grappling with the impact of gun violence, and there is an urgent need for dialogue and action.

"Every child deserves to learn in an environment free of fear and violence. In joining this national movement, we're not only empowering our students to be advocates for their safety but fostering a culture of responsibility and mindfulness. It is crucial that we, as educators, parents, and community members, unite to cultivate resilience, peace, and security in our schools," said Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent, Orangeburg County School District

Since its inception in 1996, the Day of National Concern has seen participation from over 10 million young individuals, becoming a cornerstone of the national youth anti-gun-violence

campaign. This observance is often marked by a myriad of activities including school assemblies, rallies, discussions, contests, and artwork displays highlighting the impacts of gun violence, catalyzing crucial conversations between students and adults on this pressing issue.

For resources, activities, and curriculum ideas, visit the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence website at www.pledge.org. For any inquiries, please contact 507-645-5378 or email mlgrow@pledge.org.

Orangeburg County School District is proud to be a part of this monumental observance, empowering our students to be agents of change and fostering a safer, more harmonious learning environment for all.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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