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Contact: Carleen Wray, Executive Director
Email: cwray@nationalsave.org
Office: 919-661-7800



322 Chapanoke Road, Suite 110
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Toll Free 866-343-SAVE
Tel 919-661-7800
Fax 919-661-7777
www.nationalsave.org

National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere Names Local Student to 2012-2013 Youth Advisory Board *Justin Pearson, Senior at Mitchell High School, Named to National Advisory Board*

MEMPHIS, TN. (August 23, 2012)— Carleen Wray, executive director of the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE), has announced that Justin Pearson, a senior at Mitchell High School, has been selected as one of six high school students from across the country to serve on the 2012-2013 National SAVE Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Members of the board met in Raleigh, NC last week to participate in a National Youth Leadership Institute where they were trained as presenters and spokespersons for the national organization. At the Institute, Pearson was elected by his peers to serve as Vice President.

“This will be my first year of involvement with the Student Against Violence Everywhere Youth Advisory Board. I wish to help those in my community by having initiatives that help people who are affected by violence, bullying, domestic and verbal.” stated Mr. Pearson. *“I want to become a better individual and help others....”* The group will meet throughout the year to discuss youth violence issues and develop action plans for SAVE chapters across the nation.

In addition to SAVE, Pearson is a rising senior at Mitchell High School. As a member of the Mitchell High School's Debate Team, he has led the team to the semi-finals and has helped established it as a renowned team throughout the city. He has risen to the Army Junior R.O.T.C. District Corps G-3, where he is in charge of all operations and training. This year, Justin founded a community service club, H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Excel) at his high school in an effort to transform the neighborhood into a community.

Members of the YAB developed their leadership skills through participation in training sessions, discussions of best practices for school violence prevention and the practice of educational activities for sharing with other SAVE students. They created goals for the year as well as a proactive action plan to combat violence through the implementation of the three essential elements of SAVE: crime prevention, conflict management and service projects.

SAVE is a student-run, student-initiated public nonprofit violence prevention organization with over 2,000 chapters in 48 states and more than 200,000 members in elementary, middle, high schools, colleges and communities nationwide.

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About the National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere:

SAVE started at West Charlotte High School in Charlotte, N.C. in 1989 following the tragic death of a student who was trying to break up a fight at an off-campus party. Students met first to console each other, then as an organization to promote violence prevention and to work together to prevent future incidents from occurring. SAVE provides education about the effects and consequences of violence and helps provide safe activities for students, parents and communities. For more information on SAVE or starting a SAVE chapter, visit www.nationalsave.org, or contact SAVE at (866) 343-SAVE to receive free start-up materials and guidance.

<http://www.nationalsave.org/main/YAB12-13.php> ###