



Family Resource, Information & Education Network
for Down Syndrome • Frederick County, Maryland



Public Statement

April 10, 2013

For the past 45 days, F.R.I.E.N.D.S. has been in the spotlight of the Ethan Saylor case, we have issued two press releases stating our position and continue to stand by those statements.

During this time, National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS), National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) and the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) have strongly supported F.R.I.E.N.D.S. and our efforts to push for a national training program for all law enforcement in an effort to avoid a similar tragedy in the future.

NDSS and NDSC have been collaborating with F.R.I.E.N.D.S. and we as three separate organizations, are united in calling for a thorough independent investigation by the DOJ into the Ethan Saylor case.

We realize that emotions and tempers are strong surrounding this case and it is hard to please everyone. We ask that everyone please remember that the press will print what they feel will get people to buy papers, tune into or listen to newscasts. Since none of us know all of the actual specifics of the case, we should be cautious in speculating. All of our organizations agree that we never want this to happen again and will explore and pursue all resources to reassure our Down syndrome community and the greater community at large.

Awareness and education about Down syndrome is the core of all of our organizations, including those not directly involved with this case and it takes all of our families to make this happen, not just a few. This is a time when we must present a united front and try to avoid actions which might divide the DS community.

One of the actions that everyone can participate in is signing a petition for the Ethan Saylor case that the White House has set up. That link is:

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/direct-doj-fbi-investigate-whether-civil-rights-violations-police-brutality-led-death-ethan-saylor/zYRrPjvc>

F.R.I.E.N.D.S. has been in regular contact with the Saylor family and will continue to do so as their case evolves. Please watch our website and Facebook page for details in the future.

Respectfully,

Denny Weikert
President
F.R.I.E.N.D.S.