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Gov. Christie: Everyone's Willingness To Step Up Increases When They Understand It Can Happen To Them

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Gov. Christie: Everyone's Willingness To Step Up Increases When ...

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Transcript:

Governor Christie: People need to understand that this is something that can happen to them, and once that happens everybody's attitude becomes a little bit different, right? Everybody's willingness to understand, everybody's willingness to be helpful, everyone's willingness to step up themselves becomes different if they feel like it can happen to them and it's not just some anonymous person. One of the great things that I've learned in having meetings like this is that you can continue to emphasize to people, if you're sitting where I'm sitting, that I value you and your lives every bit as much as I value anybody else's and in a lot of ways I have admiration for your will and your strength to be able to confront your problems and not give in to them. So, you can look at this a whole bunch of different ways if you want. But I will tell you if any of those parents who were standing there in Shrewsbury screaming and yelling at me were standing in this room right now, more than I ever could—you'd turn them around. That's why I want you to be talking about this when you're comfortable and as you're comfortable. Because I can try as much as I can with TV ads to break down the stigma, and it will help, but the ultimate thing that will break down the stigma in this is for them to look at you and recognize that in your eyes, in your faces, they see themselves. They see their own children. They see their own spouses, their own brothers and sisters. Once that happens, man, understanding starts to really grow. And openness starts to come and that's what we're trying to do here. So it's not just about starting programs that will help people in the throes of addiction now, it is part of that, but it is to try to make sure that we lessen the suffering. And I'm sure with some of you around this table, it took you awhile to be willing to reach out and ask for help. So, wouldn't it be great if we could shorten that period of time.

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