

## **Introduction of John Halligan**

Mr. Halligan lost his son, Ryan, to suicide on October 7, 2003, at the age of 13. At the time of his death, Ryan was a student at a middle school in Vermont. It was revealed in greater detail after Ryan's death that he was ridiculed and humiliated by peers at school and on-line.

In memory of his son and just a few months after Ryan's death, Mr. Halligan spearheaded the Vermont Bullying Prevention law in 2004. He also led the passing of law in 2006 requiring suicide prevention education in public schools.

Mr. Halligan has been outspoken about the need for more awareness and prevention of bullying, cyberbullying and teen suicide throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America. He and his wife Kelly have appeared on several national TV programs including Primetime with Diane Sawyer, PBS Frontline and Oprah.

Mr. Halligan is here to share with you Ryan's story.