

HELP PREVENT VIOLENCE IN NORTH CAROLINA'S SCHOOLS – **SUPPORT HB1366!!**

Bullying and harassment are major problems in North Carolina schools, creating an unsafe environment for students, teachers and staff. Bullying and harassment have also been linked to other forms of school violence, including school shootings. HB1366 seeks to address these issues and help make NC schools safe for everyone.

Who does bullying hurt?

Bullying hurts victims

- Children who are bullied are more likely to feel anxious, insecure, have low self esteem and experience depression, and to experience these problems throughout their lives as a result².
- Children who are bullied do not feel safe in school. Over 10% of victims have skipped school specifically to avoid being bullied², over 160,000 students per year in the U.S.¹

Bullying hurts bullies

- Children who bully are more likely to develop conduct disorders, more likely to bring a weapon to school, and less likely to succeed academically¹
- Over 60% of children who bully were found to have at least one criminal conviction by the age of 24²

Bullying kills

- Victims of bullying and harassment are more likely than non-bullied peers to commit suicide³
- The U.S. Secret Service found that in 75% of fatal school shootings, bullying and harassment of the perpetrators was found to be a major contributing factor⁴

What does HB1366 do?

HB1366, The School Violence Prevention Act, is a bi-partisan effort to eliminate bullying and harassment in North Carolina by requiring all schools to adopt policies that clearly define and prohibit bullying and harassment, and to create a clear system of reporting and responding to incidents. Currently, no such statewide definition exists. HB1366 also enumerates protected categories to protect children most vulnerable to bullying and harassment.

Why enumerate protected categories?

- Enumeration of protected categories is essential to reduction of bullying and harassment in schools, and fair and equal implementation of policies.
- Students in North Carolina who attend schools where anti-bullying and harassment policies enumerate protected categories report feeling safer, being less likely to be bullied, and that reports of bullying incidents are more likely to be taken seriously³
- Enumeration gives teachers and administrators the guidance and framework needed for consistent and fair implementation of policies
- According to the Supreme Court, "Enumeration is the essential device used to make the duty not to discriminate concrete and to provide guidance for those who must comply."

Who supports HB1366 and the need for enumeration?

The NC Association of Educators, The Covenant with North Carolina's Children, NC Council of Churches, The Alliance for Disability Advocates, The National Association of Social Workers (NC), El Pueblo, Parents and Teachers Against Violence in Education, Equality NC, The NC School Social Workers, Action for Children, Prevent Child Abuse, The NC Justice Center, The ARC of North Carolina & The Autism Society

1. Clarke, E. A. & Kiselica, M.S. (1997). A systematic counseling approach to the problem of bullying. *Elementary School Guidance & Counseling*, 31(4), 310-326.

2. Bullying: Are schools doing enough to stop the problem? (2005). *CQ Researcher*, 15(5), 104-124.

3. Harris Interactive & GLSEN. (2005). *From teasing to torment: School climate in America, a survey of students and teachers*. New York: GLSEN.

4. U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center. (2000). *Safe schools initiative: An interim report on the prevention of targeted violence in schools*.