

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1070 Session of  
2020

---

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BULLOCK, ROTHMAN, HILL-EVANS, SCHMITT,  
TOEPEL, READSHAW, SAPPEY, BURNS, McCLINTON, HOWARD, ECKER,  
LONGIETTI, MILLARD, CALTAGIRONE, GALLOWAY, SANCHEZ,  
HENNESSEY, MURT, KIRKLAND, BROOKS, SCHLOSSBERG, BIZZARRO,  
THOMAS, MENTZER, SAYLOR, KENYATTA, SAMUELSON, GREEN, STRUZZI,  
DeLUCA, YOUNGBLOOD AND SONNEY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

---

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 19, 2020

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2020 as "Bullying Prevention  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians  
3 recognize bullying, stop bullying and gain the tools needed  
4 to appropriately deal with situations involving bullies.

5 WHEREAS, A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
6 survey shows that 16% of students in grades 9 through 12 have  
7 experienced bullying; and

8 WHEREAS, Whether verbal, physical or via the Internet,  
9 bullying can severely affect a student's self-image, social  
10 interactions and school performance and can lead to insecurity,  
11 lack of self-esteem and depression in adulthood; and

12 WHEREAS, School dropout rates and absences among victims of  
13 bullying are much higher than among other students; and

14 WHEREAS, Children who have been identified as bullies by 8  
15 years of age are 6 times more likely to have a criminal  
16 conviction by 24 years of age; and

1       WHEREAS, Children who are bullies may continue to be bullies  
2 as adults and are more prone to abuse a child or a spouse; and

3       WHEREAS, There are three interrelated reasons why students  
4 bully: a strong need for power and dominance, satisfaction in  
5 causing injury to or suffering among other students and  
6 attention seeking; and

7       WHEREAS, Bullying is much more complex and varied than the  
8 presumed stereotype; and

9       WHEREAS, Bullying by both girls and boys is not easily  
10 defined as solely physical aggression; and

11       WHEREAS, Bullying can occur quietly and covertly, through  
12 gossip or the Internet, causing emotional damage; and

13       WHEREAS, Bullying, overt bullying and covert bullying include  
14 derogatory comments, name-calling, social exclusion or  
15 isolation, hitting, kicking, shoving or spitting, lying,  
16 creating rumors, taking money, taking or damaging property,  
17 threatening or forcing others to perform acts and targeting  
18 individuals based on race, sex or gender; and

19       WHEREAS, An act is classified as bullying when the behavior  
20 hurts or harms another person physically or emotionally and the  
21 behavior is virtually impossible to stop; and

22       WHEREAS, Bullying includes creating an imbalance of power,  
23 with a bully having more power physically, socially or  
24 emotionally over a victim; and

25       WHEREAS, Depression, low self-esteem, health issues, poor  
26 grades and suicidal thoughts are consequences of bullying; and

27       WHEREAS, It may be hard to recognize the difference between  
28 playful teasing and bullying, but they are not the same; and

29       WHEREAS, Teasing by two or more friends of equal power seems  
30 enjoyable for everyone and never involves physical or emotional

1 abuse; and

2 WHEREAS, Bullying impacts students targeted by the behavior,  
3 students who witness the behavior and students who engage in the  
4 behavior; and

5 WHEREAS, When bullying continues and a school does not act,  
6 the entire school climate is affected in many ways; and

7 WHEREAS, An environment of fear and disrespect can develop;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Students may have learning difficulties or feel  
10 insecure; and

11 WHEREAS, Students may dislike school, perceiving that  
12 teachers and staff have little control and do not care about  
13 them; and

14 WHEREAS, There is no Federal law that specifically applies to  
15 bullying, but schools are legally obligated to address certain  
16 bullying as harassment; and

17 WHEREAS, The Office for Civil Rights in the United States  
18 Department of Education and the United States Department of  
19 Justice have stated that bullying is considered to be harassment  
20 when based on a student's race, color, national origin, sex,  
21 disability or religion; and

22 WHEREAS, Bullying can last well into adulthood, when abuse is  
23 most likely to occur in the workplace; and

24 WHEREAS, According to a 2014 workplace survey, more than 37  
25 million workers in the United States have experienced some form  
26 of workplace bullying and 28.7 million workers have witnessed  
27 bullying; and

28 WHEREAS, Many adults find themselves emotionally tormented by  
29 fellow employees, neighbors, aggressive friends and spouses; and

30 WHEREAS, Harassing behaviors include unwelcome conduct such

1 as name-calling, epithets, slurs, graphic or written statements  
2 or threats and assault or other acts that are physically  
3 threatening, harmful or humiliating; and

4 WHEREAS, "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" is a monthlong  
5 effort that encourages everyone to take an active role in the  
6 bullying prevention movement; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
8 month of October 2020 as "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month"  
9 in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians recognize bullying, stop  
10 bullying and gain the tools needed to appropriately deal with  
11 situations involving bullies.