

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2010

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Tim Briggs

SUBJECT: Bullying legislation

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation (HB2569 from last session) that will amend the Public School Code in order to supplement the current policy related to bullying in our public schools.

This legislation would expand the current bullying policy to apply to actions such as harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying. Furthermore, it delineates specific actions that must be taken by school entities to ensure the school entity's harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying policy offers considerable notice, opportunities to report incidents, remedies for victims and training in harassment and bullying prevention for those responsible for students.

Specifically, the proposed legislation establishes an additional section that promulgates the expected requirements and responsibilities to be taken by the Department of Education regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying in our children's schools. This new section requires the Department to routinely review each school entity's policy or program regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying. Further, the Department is expected to collect and interpret data regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyber-bullying incidents throughout the Commonwealth. The report must be shared with the General Assembly as a means to identify and address issues facing our students.

It is the intent of this legislation to protect our students and teachers by providing them with the necessary tools to control the potentially dangerous ramifications of bullying. If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Anne Foreman at aforeman@pahouse.net or at 717-705-7011.