
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 534 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY MIRANDA, MAJOR, MICOZZIE, LUCAS, ROZZI, MCNEILL,
SONNEY, WHEATLEY, DAVIS, V. BROWN, DIGIROLAMO, HENNESSEY,
P. DALEY, BOBACK, KAVULICH, DONATUCCI, VEREB, YOUNGBLOOD,
J. HARRIS, KORTZ, MIRABITO, PARKER, CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW,
MURT, MILLARD, CRUZ, GRELL, THOMAS, NEILSON, D. MILLER,
O'BRIEN, KINSEY, ROCK, KIRKLAND, SCHLOSSBERG, ROSS, BISHOP,
PETRI, MULLERY, BIZZARRO, ROEBUCK, MAHONEY, WHITE, MILNE,
LONGIETTI, FARINA, HARHART, GINGRICH AND BROWNLEE,
OCTOBER 23, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 23, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2013 as "Bullying Prevention
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians work
3 to stop bullying, recognize bullying and gain the tools
4 needed to appropriately deal with situations involving
5 bullies.

6 WHEREAS, A recent United States study shows that 17% of all
7 students reported having been bullied "sometimes" or more often,
8 this amounts to almost one-in-five students; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice states that
10 37% of all students do not feel safe at school; and

11 WHEREAS, Bullying can be verbal, physical or via the Internet
12 and can severely affect the victim's self-image, social
13 interactions and school performance, often leading to
14 insecurity, lack of self-esteem and depression in adulthood; and

15 WHEREAS, School dropout rates and absences among victims of

1 bullying are much higher than among other students; and

2 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that children who have been
3 identified as a bully by eight years of age are six times more
4 likely to have a criminal conviction by 24 years of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Children who are bullies may continue to be bullies
6 as adults and are more prone to become child and spouse abusers;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Information about bullying suggests that there are
9 three interrelated reasons why students bully, including strong
10 needs for power and dominance, satisfaction in causing injury
11 and suffering to other students and reward for their behavior
12 with material or psychological rewards; and

13 WHEREAS, Bullying can take on many forms, including
14 derogatory comments and bad names, social exclusion or
15 isolation, hitting, kicking, shoving and spitting, lies and
16 false rumors, having money or other things taken or damaged,
17 being threatened or being forced to do things and forms of
18 racial, sexual and cyber bullying; and

19 WHEREAS, Bullying is done by both girls and boys; and

20 WHEREAS, At first glance, many people may think bullying
21 behavior is easy to define as solely physical aggression, but,
22 while that can still be considered bullying today, bullying
23 behaviors can be much more complex and varied than the
24 stereotype; and

25 WHEREAS, Harmful bullying can occur quietly and covertly,
26 through gossip or on the Internet, causing emotional damage; and

27 WHEREAS, Although definitions vary from source to source,
28 most agree that an act is defined as bullying when the behavior
29 hurts or harms another person physically or emotionally and the
30 targets have difficulty stopping the behavior directed at them

1 and struggle to defend themselves; and

2 WHEREAS, Many definitions include a statement about the
3 "imbalance of power," described as when the student with the
4 bullying behavior has more "power," either physically, socially
5 or emotionally; and

6 WHEREAS, Many definitions also include the types of bullying,
7 including overt bullying, with physical behaviors, such as
8 fighting, hitting or name calling, and covert bullying, with
9 emotional-social interactions, such as gossiping or leaving
10 someone out on purpose; and

11 WHEREAS, When students experience bullying there are effects
12 that can last long into their future, including depression, low
13 self-esteem, health problems, poor grades and suicidal thoughts;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, It might be hard to tell the difference between
16 playful teasing and bullying, but they are not the same thing;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Teasing usually involves two or more friends who act
19 together in a way that seems fun to all the people involved and
20 they often tease each other equally, but it never involves
21 physical or emotional abuse; and

22 WHEREAS, It is also important to note that bullying is not
23 just about the implications for those targeted by the behaviors,
24 but that the behavior can impact all students in the school,
25 including those who witness the behavior and those who engage in
26 the behavior; and

27 WHEREAS, Students who bully can have a wide-ranging impact on
28 the students they bully, students who observe bullying and the
29 overall climate of the school and community; and

30 WHEREAS, When bullying continues and a school does not take

1 action, the entire school climate can be affected in many ways,
2 including the school developing an environment of fear and
3 disrespect, students having difficulty learning, students
4 feeling insecure, students disliking school and students
5 perceiving that teachers and staff have little control and do
6 not care about them; and

7 WHEREAS, The Office for Civil Rights in the United States
8 Department of Education and the United States Department of
9 Justice have stated that bullying may also be considered
10 harassment when it is based on a student's race, color, national
11 origin, sex or disability; and

12 WHEREAS, Harassing behaviors may include unwelcome conduct
13 such as verbal abuse, including name calling, epithets, slurs,
14 graphic or written statements, threats, physical assault or
15 other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful or
16 humiliating; and

17 WHEREAS, There is no Federal law that specifically applies to
18 bullying, rather, when bullying is based on race, color,
19 national origin, sex, disability or religion, bullying overlaps
20 with harassment and schools are legally obligated to address it;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Bullying Prevention Awareness Month is a month-long
23 effort that encourages everyone to take an active role in the
24 bullying prevention movement; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
26 month of October 2013 as "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month"
27 in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians work to stop bullying,
28 recognize bullying and gain the tools needed to appropriately
29 deal with situations involving bullies.