

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1129 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, BOBACK, ROTHMAN, HENNESSEY, MILLARD,
NEILSON, THOMAS, HARKINS, READSHAW, CHARLTON, BURNS, WARREN,
DONATUCCI, JAMES, BARRAR, LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, CALTAGIRONE,
RYAN, HILL-EVANS, ROZZI, O'BRIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, MACKENZIE,
EVERETT, PICKETT, DRISCOLL, KIRKLAND, SCHWEYER, SAYLOR,
DIGIROLAMO, MARSICO, DALEY AND ROEBUCK, OCTOBER 5, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 5, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2018 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 19% 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
14 includes 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 2018 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.