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House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Harrisburg

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS EDUCATION LIQUOR CONTROL HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

TO:

All House Members

FROM:

Representative Thomas J. Quigley

146th Legislative District

DATE:

March 27, 2012

SUBJECT:

Bullying and Cyber-Bullying Prevention Law

In the near future, I will be introducing legislation amending the Public School Code to prohibit harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying in any Pennsylvania public educational institution.

I am proposing a bill that will guarantee the right of all students to participate fully in the educational process, free from harassment and bullying. A 2006 report of the school climate in Pennsylvania detailed pervasive biased language, bullying, name-calling and harassment in secondary schools. More than half of the students who experienced harassment or assault at school did not report it because they believed teachers and administrators could do nothing about it, or that reporting would only make the situation worse.

The bill I propose addresses harassment, intimidation, bullying, and cyber-bullying in the public schools; requires School Boards to adopt anti-harassment and bullying policies; and, requires the Department of Education to develop a model policy and training materials, to review school districts for compliance, and to submit annual reports to the State legislature.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my office by calling Lauren Pacella at 772-9963 or email her at lpacella@pahousegop.com.

TJQ/lp