

11824 SENATE HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

## Jason Hooley

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**From:** Bueler, Cindy [Cindy.Bueler@providence.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 26, 2006 10:04 AM  
**To:** Sen. Fred Dyson  
**Cc:** Jason Hooley  
**Subject:** concerning HB 467

**Attachments:** bop letter.doc



bop letter.doc (558  
KB)

Honorable Senator Dyson,

Enclosed is a letter concerning HB 467 from the Alaska Board of Pharmacy. Please include this letter in your consideration of the bill. I can be reached at Providence Hospital in the in-patient pharmacy 261-3633 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bueler, Registered Pharmacist  
Chair, Alaska Board of Pharmacy

<<bop letter.doc>>

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**Gayle Keller**

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**From:** Cathy Giessel [cgiessel@mac.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 02, 2006 9:39 PM  
**To:** Sen. Fred Dyson  
**Subject:** HB 467 considerations

Dear Senator Dyson

I know that time is short and you have all worked very hard this session on some very weighty issues. HB 467 is being reviewed at the last minute, with little time allowed to ponder the ramifications. Some considerations as you deliberate this bill:

**HB 467 does NOT serve public safety:**

**Many potential unintended consequences:**

It opens the door to an unlimited myriad of substances. Salvia divinorum (SB 313) is an herb included in the substances described in HB 467. This bill needs more time and scrutiny, rather than a rush through the Legislature.

**Alaska's most vulnerable, debilitated population**

Residents of assisted living homes are the most ill members of our communities, with multiple diseases processes and numerous medications, with impaired liver and kidney function. Adverse events and interactions with non-FDA approved substances are a significant risk.

**Facility waiver does NOT protect the patient**

The waiver that patients are required to sign at the Alaska Pioneer Home serves only to protect the facility, NOT the patient.

**Overrule the findings of a regulatory board composed of healthcare professionals**

The Board of Nursing has considered this question several times over the last 8 years, with many different members on the Board. The Board has always reached the same conclusion – this is not a safe practice. Why do regulatory boards exist, if the Legislature so quickly overrules the judgment and expertise of the Board of Nursing?

**Powerful marketing**

Two weeks ago I had a patient bring me a homeopathic that she purchased based on a late night infomercial. She wanted me to approve it for her muscle pain. I explained that I did not know what was in it and there was no proof that it would help her. She seemed very puzzled but seemed to accept that I could not validate the product or its efficacy. Then she said, "I have just one more question. Cathy, the instructions say I should put this in my mouth for 10 seconds t' en swallow it. So, on the clock there is that hand that goes around kind of fast. Is it 10 seconds when the hand goes from the 6 to the 7?"

I did not have the heart to ask my patient how much she paid for the product, for fear of embarrassing her.

Thank you for giving this bill careful consideration.

5/5/2006

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Cathy Giessel, MS, RN, ANP  
[cgiessel@mac.com](mailto:cgiessel@mac.com)

Alaska Board of Nursing  
chair

April 11, 2006

Dear Representative Wilson,

I am writing in regards to HB 467 which addresses administration of "remedies and dietary supplements" by nurses to patients in assisted living and other nursing facilities. While I am the Director of Pharmacy of Alaska Regional Hospital, I am expressing my personal professional opinion.

The terms remedies, dietary supplements, natural remedies, homeopathic and herbal products encompass a very broad spectrum of products available to the consumer. While some of these products are very widely used such as vitamin supplements, other products are often imported with extremely vague if non-existent safety and efficacy information. Labels often contain terms such as "proprietary blend" which may list 10-20 obscure ingredients. Since these products are not regulated by the FDA as prescription or even over the counter drugs, adverse effects and hazards are only identified retrospectively, after affecting consumers. In addition, the potency of this broad basket of products varies significantly with little or no standardization and often conflicting dosage information.

I would encourage a careful consideration of the necessity and broad impact or ramifications of passing HB 467. I do not think this bill adequately addresses the professional concerns identified by health professionals such as nurses and pharmacists and does not serve the public in this form.

Sincerely

Chris Coursey  
8612 Lassen St.  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
Registered Pharmacist

11 April, 2006

Dear Representative Wilson,

I am a pharmacist writing in regards to HB 467 concerning administration of "remedies and dietary supplements" by nurses to patients in nursing homes and assisted living situations. Although I sit on the Alaska Board of Pharmacy, I am writing not in that capacity, but as an Alaskan pharmacist. I urge you to exercise caution in proceeding with this bill for reasons of patient safety. Let me explain.

There exists a myriad of over-the-counter "remedies", dietary supplements, herbal remedies, "natural" remedies and supplements, diet aids, etc. Although generally these agents are benign, that is not always the case. Warnings from the FDA periodically come out concerning safety of these agents, often from products originating in other countries and imported and sold in the U.S. They may contain toxic contaminants or may indeed contain pharmaceutical ingredients that are prescription-only in the U.S. and toxic if not used correctly. Product labeling does not reveal these minefields.

Aside from the issues of toxic contaminants, there is the issue of potency of the agent. There is little or no standardization of content of these agents, and potency may vary greatly between manufacturers or even from batch to batch...regardless of the labeled potency. There is no FDA oversight for these products.

The other major factor with these agents is potential interactions with prescribed therapeutic medicine. This is well documented in pharmacy literature and not necessarily familiar to prescribers.

Although HB 467 does not mandate that a nurse administer these agents, it would allow an institution to mandate the practice.

Please consider the safety ramifications to the public when considering HB 467.

Sincerely,

Cindy Bueler, Registered Pharmacist

May 5, 2006

Senate HCSS committee

I serve in the Licensed Practical Nurse position for the Alaska State Board of Nursing.

I am testifying in opposition to HB 467.

The Board of Nursing is charged with protecting public safety through safe nursing practice. HB 467 does not allow that to happen.

Every nurse has standards of practice that they follow when giving nursing care. One of those standards pertains to administration of medications and it is called the five rights.

1. Right patient, are you the person this medication was order for.
2. Right drug, the nurse is educated about this drug and it is what was ordered
3. Right dose, knowing what are recommended dosages and this is the appropriate dose
4. Right route, knowing the proper routes of administration for this drug
5. Right time, it is being given at the appropriate time. Once a day, twice a day etc.

This is a foundation from which nurses practice safely when administering medications to patients in all health care settings and what you should expect as a patient.

Let me provide an example: You are my patient and an injection has been ordered. My patient load is very heavy and someone else draws up the injection for me out of my site, brings the syringe to me and says "here is your patient's injection" it would be negligent of me to accept that syringe and inject you with it because I do not know what is in the syringe. I did not see it drawn, I cannot be sure of anything about the contents of that syringe and you should not want me to give you that injection.

That level of unknown exists with dietary supplements and remedies. Because of the lack of oversight during production and lack of testing of the products there is no way to know what these remedies really contain.

If you are thinking it is adding another level of safety to an unsafe situation, by your own admission these products are not safe. Asking one person to prescribe an unknown and another to administer an unknown does not make it right or more safe.

It is not surprising that there are some nurses willing to administer these remedies to patients, it is in a nurses nature to want to help. I heard the nurse from Denali Center here in Fairbanks say it would be a shame if the patients there could not have cranberry tablets administered to ward off urinary tract infections, but would she feel the same if when cranberries were being collected by the manufacturer poisonous hainberries were mistakenly collected and put into the mix. She would have no way of knowing that.

I am sure that when the day comes that nurses can be assured that these remedies and dietary supplements contain what the label says they contain and that they have been tested to be pure and safe that the Board of Nursing will gladly step forward and change their ruling.

Please know that when you are being taken care of by a nurse that every effort has been made to give you the good and safe care that you deserve.

Please vote no on this bill so that level of care can continue.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Weymiller, J.P.N  
907-479-4395  
907-479-7432 fax  
907-322-0111

April 25, 2006

VIA FAX - #907-465-4587

Senator Fred Dyson  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 121  
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: CS HB467

Dear Senator:

We met last month in your office on a different matter than the subject of this letter – I am the Chairman of the Golden Valley Board of Directors.

CS HB467 is the result of my grandmother's residency at the Fairbanks Pioneers Home and her need for dietary supplements or prescribed remedies. My interest in this bill is not in its benefit to my grandmother, but similarly situated residents in facilities. My grandmother is 98 and odds are she won't be with us much longer.

My grandmother has been taking Cosamin DS and Tri-omega 3 fish oil pills for the past few years. We would purchase the pills and the Pioneers Home would administer them. Due to some conflicting statements by the Alaska State Board of Nursing, the Pioneers Homes decided to discontinue the practice of administering supplements. Despite a policy allowing voluntary continuance of administration, the nurses there are afraid to continue due to fear of actions that may be taken by the Board.

CS HB467 will allow registered nurses to administer prescribed remedies or dietary supplements under regulations adopted by the Board. I stand ready to assist the Board in their efforts to draft such regulations, and already have the June meeting on my schedule to attend for this purpose.

I urge you to give CS HB467 positive consideration and to pass it out of your committee to the floor so that it may pass this session. If you have any questions, please call me at the number above. Even if I am traveling, I will be in contact.

Sincerely,

Rick Schikora

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is Merritt Andrus. I am a gerontological nurse practitioner and I have been practicing here in Juneau for the last 8 years. I strongly support house bill 467 for several reasons:

First, I would respectfully disagree with the nurse from the BON who stated, "this is not about glucosamine" the fact is – It IS about glucosamine, it IS about cranberry chews, it IS about viactiv (a calcium and vit. D supplement within a soft chocolate candy), it IS about acidophilus – these are supplements that older folks have been using successfully and with very effective and helpful results for a number of years. Without these supplements, many older adults would have to be taking more and much stronger FDA approved drugs to help them with their problems.

For example, I have several residents with severe OA AND histories of GI bleeds. These people cannot take many NSAIDS because they increase risk of GI bleed and are hard on the livers and kidneys of older folks. These people suffer greatly from the pain of OA and would be suffering much more if nurses were not able to give them the glucosamine they have taken for years to help with their arthritis pain. I have many residents who suffer from chronic UTIs which are very painful. Several of these residents are no longer able to take the cipro and nitrofurantoin originally prescribed for them daily as a prophylaxis for recurrent UTIs because their kidneys can no longer handle these harsh antibiotics. If they couldn't get their cranberry chews three times a day, they would be suffering from UTIs almost all the time. The gigantic horse pills of calcium and Vit D. required to be taken by all my patients with osteoporosis are extremely difficult for most people to swallow – the viactiv is a much gentler and kinder way to take their calcium. If families had to come in 2-3 times a day to administer these supplements it would create a hardship not only for the families, but for the residents who already feel too often a burden on their loved ones.

Secondly, as nurses we should be advocates for our patients. Just as we are obligated to have some understanding of the drugs we are asked to administer, we should also have some understanding of the supplements we are asked to administer. If we don't know about the supplements, we can go to the "natural medicines comprehensive database and look them up. The database lists any theoretical harm that is deemed significant, such as dangerous interactions with medications. It also lists significant studies that have been done on supplements which help show whether they are efficacious or not. Many pts and their families do not have all this information and as nurses it is our responsibility to educate our pts and their families about the pros and cons of each supplement they want to take so that they can make informed choices. For any nurse to simply bury their head in the sand and rigidly say to their patients, "No, I will not administer ANY supplement to you, is not only wrong it is irresponsible.

Lastly, I support this bill b/c even though I feel strongly that nurses owe it to their patients to find out all they can about supplements their pts are taking or wish to take, this bill still allows those nurses who do NOT feel as I do, to simply refrain from giving them. The argument that they could be fired for this doesn't wash, as all nurses always have the

right to refuse to give any treatment to a pt. that they think will harm them. I have myself refused to give medication and was never fired for it.

I therefore, urge you to pass this bill and assist the older adults of Alaska who are unable to take their medications and supplements by themselves to get the complete care they need and deserve. Thank you.

washingtonpost.com

## 'Natural' Guidance

Better Safety, Efficacy Data on Natural Medicines Are Now Available for a Fee, as Public Use Grows

By Sandra G. Boodman  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Tuesday, May 2, 2006; HE01

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Consumer Reports, the bible of independent consumer ratings, has introduced a new database of information on thousands of herbs, dietary supplements and other natural medicines, a response to the enormous growth in the use of these products.

The new database -- unveiled last week and believed to be the most comprehensive of its kind -- contains detailed and easily accessible information on the safety, effectiveness and possible harmful interactions of nearly 14,000 supplements. It is available for a \$19 annual fee, which also gives users access to Consumer Reports guides to prescription drugs and medical treatments.

The database, officially known as the Natural Medicines Comprehensive Database, is the product of the Therapeutic Research Center in Stockton, Calif., which analyzes prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Like Consumers Union (CU), which publishes the monthly Consumer Reports magazine and does not accept advertising, the center receives no funding from pharmaceutical companies, according to its chief, Jeff Jellin.

Jellin, a former professor of pharmacy, said that the center is funded by subscriptions to two newsletters it publishes: the Prescriber's Letter and the Pharmacist's Letter. The consumer database is adapted from these newsletters, which circulate to medical schools, hospitals, doctors and pharmacists, according to Jellin, who is the editor-in-chief.

"It looks like there's a tremendous amount of useful information here," said Allen J. Vaida, executive director of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), a nonprofit group that promotes drug safety, of the new CU database.

For several years CU has provided information to subscribers about prescription drugs through a partnership with the Bethesda-based American Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

"We decided to do this because we get calls all the time" about natural medicines, said CU project manager Nancy Metcalf.

A 2002 survey found that an estimated 19 percent of Americans take at least one supplement-- ranging from ginkgo to improve memory to St. John's wort to treat depression.

Many users erroneously regard these products as safe because they are "natural" and do not consider them to be drugs, Metcalf noted. In fact, the efficacy of many products is untested, their purity unknown and their safety uncertain because they are largely exempt from the scrutiny of the Food and Drug Administration.

Even so, demand for natural medicines seems insatiable: Americans now spend an estimated \$20 billion annually on herbal remedies for weight loss or to treat back pain, dementia or cancer, studies have found. Because of growing demand, the number of products has skyrocketed.

Yet credible information about supplements remains scarce and what exists may require parsing complicated scientific studies. Although many Web sites and guides offer information about such medicines, much of it is produced by groups

hat have a financial interest in selling the products, experts say.

"CU does a good job," said Candy Tsourounis, an associate professor of pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. Tsourounis, an expert in the use of herbs and natural medicines, called the natural medicine guide informative and "very user-friendly."

#### A Difference in Detail

The National Institutes of Health sponsors two databases -- through its Office of Dietary Supplements ( <http://dietary-supplements.info.nih.gov/> ) and its National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine ( <http://www.nccam.nih.gov/> ). Both provide safety and effectiveness information about supplements that is free of commercial influence. But neither site contains as much detailed or easily accessible information as the CU database, which allows consumers to check which natural medicines might be effective for specific health problems.

Search "colds," for example, and information on 17 supplements pops up. Among them are echinacea, which the guide classifies as "possibly effective" in reducing cold symptoms based on published studies, and ginseng, for which it says there is "insufficient evidence."

CU's database ( <http://www.consumerreportsmedicalguide.org/> ) lists approximately 100 brands of supplements that contain garlic, often taken to reduce cholesterol or blood pressure, for which it is rated "possibly effective." The site warns users that garlic supplements could interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills because they speed the breakdown of estrogen and may interact with statins, which are broken down by the liver.

Guida of ISMP said he hopes the detailed safety information won't lead users to self-medicate. "The important thing is that people should not go on this site and decide for themselves whether to tell their doctor or pharmacist" they are taking a supplement, he said.

Alternative medicine specialist Adriane Fugh-Berman, an associate professor of complementary medicine at Georgetown University School of Medicine, said that while the CU directory is "much more accurate than many other resources," it fails to distinguish between theoretical risks various supplements may pose at a cellular level and actual harm seen in human studies.

Extreme caution can work against public health outcomes," said Fugh-Berman, who has written about the benefits of some herbal medicines. If consumers are told "everything interacts with everything, people will just stop listening."

Ellin said that such distinctions appear on the professional version of the database, but not on the consumer Web site.

"We put forward what we think is the best advice," he said. If a theoretical harm is deemed potentially significant, such as increased bleeding associated with ginkgo ingestion, it is posted in the interest of consumer protection.

A distinctive feature of the database is its ability to quickly check interactions between herbal supplements and prescription drugs.

The listing for the popular antidepressant Zoloft, for example, shows interactions with more than 80 supplements and herbs, including vitamin E, which is often taken to protect the heart.

Ellin said his employees combed through 1,450 scientific studies of supplements last year, and he expects the number to be higher this year because of growing scientific research in herbal medicine. Like the newsletter database, the guide is continuously updated.

For the record I am Virginia Smiley, director of the Division of Pioneer Homes for the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Chairman, I would like to give you a very brief overview of the division's position on RNs involvement in administering dietary supplements.

The Pioneer Homes has a procedure for administering supplements that includes a written order from the primary prescribing practitioner, who indicates brand name and dosage. We require a release form signed by the resident or his representative, privately purchased supplements by the family in original, sealed, packaging whose label must include brand name, lot number, expiration date, resident's name, resident's room number, dosage and frequency.

In addition, our pharmacy is informed of any supplement so they can add it into the resident's medication profile and monitor it in reference to diagnosis, disease or possible drug interaction.

Finally our policy includes voluntary agreement by an RN to administer supplements reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

We prefer to have a RNs involvement in supplement administration for the very same reasons we have their involvement in medication administration. If a nurse is unsure about something that has been ordered, the nurse has an obligation to get in touch with the prescriber and ASK questions: why it is being ordered, or could it interfere with other meds?

We expect our nurses to (1) know their residents, and (2) know the risk/benefit of each medication ordered by a prescriber and administered by the nurse. We expect they will treat supplements accordingly.

We would much rather have a nurse involved with a well planned procedure for supplement administration than have a family member bringing in a zip-lock bag full of unknown, unmarked pills, dispensing them in an unsupervised, unstructured manner.

And I would disagree that administering something ordered by a care provider violates any code of ethics or is outside the scope of nursing practice. Practitioners have an obligation to try to do everything they can to improve the quality of life for their patients. And that may include monitoring and administering a supplement that has shown a benefit to an individual patient.

The Board of Nursing has, by their own admission, been grappling with this issue since 1998 yet there is still nothing in statute or their regulations that direct nurses on how to handle this specific issue; there have only been Board of Nursing opinions or positions.

If this legislation does not pass, residents will continue to take supplements in an unsupervised manner, so we are not protecting the public health by eliminating the RN in the process. In fact, for the Pioneer Homes, we could just ask housekeepers or dietary personnel to pass supplements and circumvent the whole issue. But that is not in the best interest of the patient. Having RN involvement is.

In conclusion, the Pioneer Homes support the passage of HB 467.

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/25/06

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 5.5.06

Health, Education & Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 467(HES) am  
HB 467 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION BY A NURSE

"An Act relating to the administration of prescribed remedies and dietary supplements by a nurse."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**CS Senate Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 New Title

**SCS House Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet | Zero | FN# |
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**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

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APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

| SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: | Do PASS | Do NOT PASS | NO REC | AMEND |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------|
| <i>[Signature]</i>              |         |             | ✓      |       |
| <i>Gonzalez</i>                 |         |             | ✓      |       |
| <i>Laura Green</i>              |         |             | ✓      |       |
| <i>[Signature]</i>              |         |             | ✓      |       |
| CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>       | ✓       |             |        |       |

**HB**

**482**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
ADMINISTRATION REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, VICE-CHAIR

website: <http://www.akrepublicans.org/Anderson.htm>

INTERIM  
716 WEST 4TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501  
PHONE (907) 269-0265  
FAX (907) 269-0264

SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801-1182  
PHONE (907) 465-4939  
1-800-465-4939  
FAX (907) 465-2418

## Representative Tom Anderson

email: [Representative\\_Tom\\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us)

### MEMORANDUM

Date: April 24, 2006

To: Senator Dyson  
Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee

From: Representative Tom Anderson

Re: HB 482

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I respectfully request scheduling of HB 482 for consideration by the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee.

Enclosed are:

1. The most recent version of the bill
2. Current Sponsor Statement
3. Current Sectional Analysis
4. Current Fiscal Notes
5. Appropriate backup documentation

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Crystal Novotney at 465-4939 in my office if you have any questions or concerns.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

LABOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
ADMINISTRATION REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, VICE CHAIR

and visit <http://www.aklegislature.org/Anderson.htm>

INTERIM  
716 WEST 4TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501  
PHONE: (907) 269-4266  
FAX: (907) 269-0264

SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801 1182  
PHONE: (907) 465-4933  
1-800-465-4939  
FAX: (907) 465-3419

## Representative Tom Anderson

email [Representative\\_Tom\\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us)

### SPONSOR STATEMENT FOR CSHB 482 (JUD)

**TITLE:** "An act relating to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools."

HB 482 addresses a growing problem in our schools that is often overlooked by teachers and administrators. Bullying has a truly negative effect on the social environment of schools and on the emotional and mental well-being of our children, the students in these schools.

Recent studies suggest that Bullying creates a climate of fear among students, inhibits their ability to learn, and leads to other anti-social behavior, such as vandalism, shoplifting, skipping and dropping out of school, fighting, and the use of drugs and alcohol. Sixty percent (60%) of the males studies who were bullies in grades six through nine were convicted of at least one crime as an adult. Thirty five (35) to forty percent (40%) of these former bullies had three or more convictions by 24 years of age. Only 15 of the 53 school districts in Alaska have made an attempt to address the bullying issue. With the increase in students in Alaska today, there is a growing need to ensure the safety of our children's learning environment.

House Bill 482 requires school districts, city and borough offices of education, law enforcement agencies, and youth-serving agencies to develop and implement interagency strategies on bullying and harassment.

Currently 21 states have some sort of anti-bullying law, and another 24 states are in the process of adopting similar legislation.

You'll note in your packets endorsement letters by the National Education Association (NEA), Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Allan Morotti - Dept. Chair of University of Alaska Fairbanks School of Education.

Bullying is a problem everywhere, even in Alaska - and its causes and effects cannot be overlooked. This bill gives not only teachers and administration officials the tools to deal with such a growing issue, but also allows for input from parents, guardians, students and concerned members of the community in the development of a comprehensive bullying policy.

Successful programs to recognize, prevent, and effectively intervene in bullying behavior have improved safety and create a more inclusive learning environment. Some of the possible programs may include in-service training programs and other activities to improve school attendance and reduce school crime and violence. HB 482 is targeted to reduce vandalism, drug and alcohol abuse, gang membership, gang violence, hate crimes, bullying, teen relationship violence, and discrimination and all harassment, including sexual harassment, in grades K-12.

Rep. Anderson urges your support of this important legislation.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

MAJOR & COMMERCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
ADMINISTRATION REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

website: <http://www.akrepublicans.org/Anderson.htm>

INTERIM  
718 WEST 4TH AVENUE  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501  
PHONE (907) 269-0288  
FAX (907) 269-0264

SESSION  
STATE CAPITOL  
JUNEAU, AK 99801 1182  
PHONE (907) 465-3939  
1-800-465-4039  
FAX (907) 465-2418

## Representative Tom Anderson

email: [Representative\\_Tom\\_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Representative_Tom_Anderson@legis.state.ak.us)

### Sectional Analysis for CSHB 482 (JUD)

**Section 1:** Amends state law dealing with school safety and discipline by adding a new section Article 4 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. The new Article 4 has five subsections:

**Sec. 14.33.200:** Harassment, intimidation, and bullying policy.

- (a) Requires school districts to adopt a policy on harassment, intimidation, and bullying by July 1, 2007 and share this policy with parents or guardians, students, volunteers, and school employees.
- (b) Outlines the policy adoption process, policy emphasis and other requirements to be included in the new policy.
- (c) Suggests the Department of Education to provide model policy to school districts by January 1, 2007. This will give school districts six months to adopt policy as required by (a).

**Sec. 14.33.210:** Reporting of incidences of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, each school district shall report to the Department all incidences involving harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The Department will then take all the data and report it to the House of Representatives and the Senate.

**Sec. 14.33.220:** Reporting; no reprisals.

- (a) A school employee, student, or volunteer is not allowed to engage in reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against a victim or a witness.
- (b) A school employee, student, or volunteer who has witnessed, or has harassment information is encouraged to report the incident to an appropriate school official.
- (c) Does not prohibit actions taken with the school districts policy.

**Sec. 14.33.223:** Immunity from suit.

Any school employee, student, or volunteer who promptly reports an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying to an appropriate school official is immune from a cause of action for damages arising.

**Sec. 14.33.250:** Definitions.

Provides definitions of "district" and "harassment, intimidation, or bullying".

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: CSHB 482(EDU)  
 (H) Publish Date: 3/20/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: LAW  
 Title "An Act relating to harassment, intimidation, RDU CIVIL  
and bullying in schools." Component Labor and State Affairs  
 Sponsor Representative Anderson  
 Requester House Special Committee on Education, Health.. Component No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2007    | FY 2008    | FY 2009    | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Contractual            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Supplies               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Equipment              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Land & Structures      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Claims        |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Miscellaneous          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|  |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1003 GF Match                          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1004 GF                                |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health                  |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Other (Specify Type-Do not abbreviate) |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                           | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This bill creates Article 4 in AS 14.33 requiring each school district to adopt a policy that prohibits the harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student. It also requires that the policy be shared with parents or guardians, students, volunteers, and school employees. The bill further requires that violations of the policy be reported to the Department of Education and Early Development, and it prohibits reprisal against and provides immunity from suit to those who report violations of the policy in good faith.

Passage of this legislation will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Law.

Prepared by: Kathryn Daughheteo, Director Phone 465-3673  
 Division Administrative Services Division Date/Time 3/14/06 9:54 AM  
 Approved by: Kathryn Daughheteo for David Marquez, Attorney General Date 3/14/2006  
 Agency Department of Law

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA  
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Version: CSHB 482(FIN)  
 () Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: EED  
 Title An Act relating to harassment, intimidation, RDU Teaching & Learning Support  
and bullying. Component Student & School Achievement  
 Sponsor Anderson  
 Requester House Finance Component No. 2796

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2007    | FY 2008    | FY 2009    | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Contractual            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Supplies               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Equipment              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Land & Structures      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Claims        |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Miscellaneous          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

|   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1003 GF Match                           |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1004 GF                                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts                |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Check this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The language of CSHB 482(FIN) does not require that the Department of Education & Early Development take any action. Therefore, there is a zero fiscal note for this version of the bill.

Prepared by: Barbara Thompson Phone 465-8727  
 Division Teaching & Learning Support Date/Time 4/13/06 1:30 PM  
 Approved by: Karen Rehfeld, Deputy Commissioner Date 04/13/2006  
 Agency Education and Early Development

# Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

## Don't be a bully

Wednesday, March 15, 2006 - Have things gotten so bad in Alaska schools that it's time for the state to step in with a law barring the harassment, intimidation or bullying of students? Apparently. Why else would Alaska need such a law as that under consideration later this week in the state House?

The superintendent of Fairbanks' public schools says she's noticed an increase in bullying in the past decade, and the school board in September adopted a policy against it. "Intentional and generally unprovoked attempts by one or more individuals to inflict physical harm or emotional distress upon another person or group is prohibited and may result in disciplinary action."

Seems pretty clear.

The item in the Legislature, House Bill 482, would require each school district to have a policy against such behavior, would require the state to help districts establish such policies, and would require districts to make annual reports to the Department of Education and Early Development, which would provide the results to the Legislature. Whether the bill goes anywhere is anyone's guess looking from the outside.

For the moment, though, the bill by Anchorage Republican Rep. Tom Anderson provides an opportunity to talk about bullying and the harm it can do. It's an opportunity to remind parents to talk to their children about what's right and what's wrong and how children should relate to one another.

Kids are kids, and they are mean to each other at times--often fiercely so. That's probably not going to change much, but that's no reason to accept bad behavior. Accepting it will only allow it to become more widespread. But what is bullying? How is a parent to recognize it to be able to deal with it?

Common sense will tell. Seeing some of the definitions in the school district's new policy does bring out the reaction, "Well, that's what kids do." Punching, hitting, hair pulling, biting, ostracizing, name-calling and so on. But the policy does include more serious forms of harassment and intimidation such as sexual propositioning and unwanted physical contact.

All of those, and other bullying, can disrupt a child's schooling and well-being. That's reason to strive to eliminate it.

Reducing the amount of bullying and harassment has been one of the topics in a grant-funded Safe Schools, Healthy Students program of the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District, which on April 19 is having a "Bullying Prevention" seminar for school administrators, school board members and parents.

The school district's workshop and the legislation to be discussed this week in Juneau both are opportunities to bring more public awareness to what can become a ruinous torment for a child.

# Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

**The cyber-bully: A new danger**  
By **HEATHER STEWART**

**Wednesday, April 05, 2006** - When you say the word bullying, everyone has a picture in their mind of the schoolyard bully. However, bullying has reached far beyond the schoolyard fences. Children are now being bullied via the Internet, cell phones, Web pages and various other media. On any given day, any one of our children could be teased, threatened, or tormented by bullies. Nationally, according to a student survey by the University of New Hampshire, 1 in 17 children age 10 through 17 have been threatened online. When you consider 605 million people are online worldwide and that 20 percent of them are kids and teens between the ages of 12 and 17, that is an alarming number. A 2002 study in Great Britain reports 1 in 4 children are bullied online.

What is this new form of bullying? Bullying itself is intentional repeated aggressive behavior that involves an imbalance of power or strength between those involved. Cyber-bullying is repeated aggression and tormenting through e-mail, instant messaging, Internet chat rooms, and electronic gadgets like camera cell phones where bullies forward and spread hurtful images and messages. Bullies use this technology to harass victims at all hours, in wide circles, and at warp speed. The anonymity offered by this technology encourages some children to say things on the computer that they would never say face-to-face. Cyber-bullies feel removed from their actions and without tangible feedback (hurt feelings, tears) there is no remorse or empathy. This behavior peaks in middle school when adolescents are figuring out who their friends are and whether they fit in. Both boys and girls bully, and both get bullied.

Bullying is not an acceptable part of growing up.

All children involved in bullying incidents are at risk. Bullied children are more likely than their peers to be depressed, lonely, anxious, have lower self-esteem, and miss days from school. Children who bully are more likely than their peers to get into frequent fights, steal, damage property, drink alcohol, drop out of school, and carry a weapon. Children who watch but don't participate are also at risk. These "bystanders" tend to have diminished empathy, decreased trust in adults, and believe that bullying and aggression are acceptable behaviors.

That's the bad news. The good news is that we can decrease bullying if everyone--students, parents, schools and the community--gets involved. Preventing and stopping bullying takes a team effort.

The Fairbanks North Star Borough School District is taking a proactive approach to addressing bullying. Policies have been developed that define and outline consequences for intimidating behavior and bullying. School staffs are training on bullying prevention, and several schools are implementing anti-bullying programs. Schools are also on the alert to squelch cyber-bullying. School computers are monitored and, if used inappropriately, students face serious consequences.

Parents need to be part of the team. Parents: It is important to talk to your children about what they can and cannot do online. Learn everything you can about the Internet. Have your children show you "what's cool." "Surf the net" as a family. Place the computer in an area where you can monitor your children on the Internet. Talk about online safety such as protecting passwords, not talking to online strangers, and never meeting in person someone they met online. Look into safeguarding-programs or

options your online service provider might offer.

The cyber-bully believes they cannot be caught, but everyone leaves cyber-footprints. If you believe your child has been a victim of cyber-bullying, you should save the information. Keep copies of the e-mails, print the Web pages, leave the computer on, and call the authorities (Internet service provider, law enforcement officials, and your child's school).

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students project has the following materials available: "Take Action Against Bullying" (guide), "Bullying is Not a Fact of Life" (booklet), and "15+ Make Time to Listen-Take Time to Talk ... About Bullying" (conversation starter cards), to provide practical guidance so parents can intervene appropriately whether their child is the bully or is being bullied. Parents can pick up these materials from the Safe Schools/Healthy Students office at Ryan Middle School or by calling 452-4751 ext. 9396. Material is also available on line at [www.northstar.k12.ak.us/safeschools/](http://www.northstar.k12.ak.us/safeschools/).

We have a responsibility to keep our children safe. By raising awareness about bullying and its negative impacts, educating ourselves on what we can do to break the cycle of violence and by addressing potentially harmful actions quickly before they escalate to chronic violent behavior, everyone's story can change for the better.

Heather Stewart is Safe Schools/Healthy Students director for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District.

Web posted March 17, 2006

## **Legislation aims to help curb bullying**

*Juneau schools have already taken action*

**By ERIC MORRISON**  
*JUNEAU EMPIRE*

It may be the school bullies who have to watch their backs in 2007.

House Bill 482, "An act relating to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools," was introduced to the House Special Committee on Education on Thursday morning. Sponsored by Rep. Tom Anderson, R-Anchorage, the bill allows schools to create anti-bullying policies to create safe and healthy learning environments in classrooms from Alaska.

"It's a very good thing for our students and I just hope they can learn in a very safe learning environment," legislative aide Crystal Novotney, who introduced the bill on behalf of Anderson, told the committee.

Some districts have acted already. Juneau School District's harassment policy covers bullying.

The bill would give schools the option of adopting a policy by July 1, 2007, to curb violence and intimidation in schools. It also would suggest that schools report any bullying activity to the Department of Education and Early Development by each January 31 beginning with the 2007-2008 school year. It also shields students, school employees and volunteers from reprisals or from lawsuits if they report such activity.

"A lot of time what happens in schools is they turn their other cheek, basically," Novotney, said. "They understand that it's happening but the big debate is, 'Well kids will be kids.'"

The bill defines harassment, intimidation or bullying as an "intentional written, oral, or physical act" that causes physical harm, interferes with education, creates a threatening environment, or disrupts school operations.

Rep. Bob Lynn, R-Anchorage, said there are laws on the books that already protect students.

"This is another layer of paperwork that needs to be done that takes away the time of teaching basic subjects and also takes away the time supervising student behavior, which includes bullying," Lynn said.

National Education Association-Alaska Executive Director Tom Harvey testified before the committee, saying the bill provides a mechanism by which a school can produce a better climate for students to learn and teachers to teach. He said the bill would help because some schools in Alaska are getting failing grades under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, unable to meet the attendance requirements.

"Students stay home because they are bullied," Harvey said. "They stay home, they miss attendance schedules and we have a failing school under No Child Left Behind. That is not appropriate."

Rep. Carl Gatto, R-Palmer, questioned whether a certain amount of bullying is actually beneficial to a student's success.

"Is there a part of growing up where you have to have conflict or you won't tolerate society?" he said.

Sara Vitaska, a policy associate for the National Conference of State Legislatures, told the committee that 21 states have enacted anti-bullying legislation and at least 24 states introduced similar legislation in the 2005-2006 session.

With Lynn dissenting, the committee voted 4-1 to move the bill to the Health, Education and Social Services Committee. Rep. Peggy Wilson, R-Wrangell, and Rep. Woodie Salmon, D-Chalkyitsik, were absent.

## Bullying Statistics

## BULLYING STATISTICS

- Thirty percent (30%) of U.S. students in grades six through ten are involved in moderate or frequent bullying — as bullies, as victims, or as both — according to the results of the first national survey on this subject.
- Bullying is increasingly viewed as an important contributor to youth violence, including homicide and suicide. Case studies of the shooting at Columbine High School and other U.S. schools have suggested that bullying was a factor in many of the incidents.

## RECENT STATISTICS SHOW THAT:

- 1 out of 4 kids is Bullied. The American Justice Department says that this month 1 out of every 4 kids will be abused by another youth.
- Surveys Show That 77% of students are bullied mentally, verbally, & physically.
- In a recent study, 77% of the students said they had been bullied. And 14% of those who were bullied said they experienced severe (bad) reactions to the abuse.
- 1 out of 5 kids admits to being a bully, or doing some "Bullying."
- 6% of students miss 1 day of class per month for fear of Bullies.
- 43% fear harassment in the bathroom at school.
- 100,000 students carry a gun to school.
- 28% of youths who carry weapons have witnessed violence at home.
- A poll of teens ages 12-17 proved that they think violence increased at their schools.
- 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month.
- More youth violence occurs on school grounds as opposed to on the way to school.
- Playground statistics - Every 7 minutes a child is bullied. Adult intervention - 4%. Peer intervention - 11%. No intervention - 85%.

## ACCORDING TO THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS - School Crime and Safety:

- 48% of males, and 26% of females reported they had been in physical fights.
- Those in the lower grades reported being in twice as many fights as those in the higher grades. However, there is a lower rate of serious violent crimes in the elementary level than in the middle or high schools.
- Teenagers say revenge is the strongest motivation for school shootings
  - — 87% said shootings are motivated by a desire to "get back at those who have hurt them."
  - — 86% said, "other kids picking on them, making fun of them or bullying them" causes teenagers to turn to lethal violence in the schools.
- Students recognize that being a victim of abuse at home or witnessing others being abused at home may cause violence in school.
  - — 61% said students shoot others because they have been victims of physical abuse at home.
  - — 54% said witnessing physical abuse at home can lead to violence in school.
- Students say their schools are not safe.

## STATS 2001:

## SELECTED SCHOOL VIOLENCE RESEARCH FINDINGS FROM 2001 SOURCES

- According to the latest poll, thirty-two percent of parents fear for their child's physical safety when the child is at school. Thirty-nine percent of parents with a child in grade six or higher are more likely to say they fear for their child's safety. Twenty-two percent of parents whose children are in grade five or lower fear for their child's safety. (*Parents Not Overly Concerned About School Environments for Their Children*, Gallup News Service, 2001)
- Bullying generally begins in the elementary grades, peaks in the sixth through eighth grades, and persists into high school. (*Addressing the Problem of Juvenile Bullying*, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2001)
- Among students, homicide perpetrators were more than twice as likely as homicide victims to have been bullied by peers. (*School-Associated Violent Deaths in the United States 1994-1999*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, 2001; findings published by the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2001)

- Overall, almost eleven percent of a representative sample of youth reported bullying others sometimes, and almost nine percent admitted to bullying others once a week or more. Experiencing bullying was reported with similar frequency, with almost nine percent bullied sometimes and just over eight percent bullied once a week or more. (*Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth, Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001*)
- Of a representative sample of youth, almost thirty percent reported some type of involvement in moderate or frequent bullying, as a bully, a target of bullying, or both. (*Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth, Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001*)
- Bullying was reported as more prevalent among males than females and occurred with greater frequency among middle school-aged youth than high school-aged youth. For males, both physical and verbal bullying was common, while for females, verbal bullying and rumors were more common. (*Bullying Behaviors Among US Youth, Journal of the American Medical Association, 2001*)
- Research shows that those who bully and are bullied appear to be at greatest risk of experiencing the following: loneliness; trouble making friends; lack of success in school; and involvement in problem behaviors such as smoking and drinking. (*Addressing the Problem of Juvenile Bullying, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2001*)
- Seventy-four percent of 8 - to 11-year-old students said teasing and bullying occur at their schools. (*Talking With Kids About Tough Issues: A National Survey of Parents and Kids, Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon, 2001*)
- Though recent studies show that as many as seventy-five percent of children have been victims of bullying during their school careers, about half of parents in this survey see bullying as no problem for their children. (*Are We Safe?: The 2000 National Crime Prevention Survey, National Crime Prevention Council, 2001*)
- Thirty-nine percent of middle schoolers and thirty-six of high schoolers say they don't feel safe at schools. (*2000 Report Card: Report #1, The Ethics of American Youth: Violence and Substance Abuse: Data & Commentary, Josephson Institute of Ethics, 2001*)

— North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Center for the Prevention of School Violence

Statistics compiled by Kathy Knoll at: <http://hometown.sol.com/kthyknoll>

April 24, 2001 (National Institutes of Health)

#### Bullying Widespread in U.S. Schools, Survey Finds:

- Bullying is widespread in American schools, with more than 16 percent of U.S. school children saying they had been bullied by other students during the current term, according to a survey funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).
- The study appears in the April 25, 2001, *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Overall, 10 percent of children said they had been bullied by other students, but had not bullied others. Another 6 percent said that they had both been bullied themselves and had bullied other children. Another 13 percent of students said they had bullied other students, but had not been bullied themselves.
- "Being bullied is not just an unpleasant rite of passage through childhood," said Duane Alexander, M.D., director of the NICHD. "It's a public health problem that merits attention. People who were bullied as children are more likely to suffer from depression and low self esteem, well into adulthood, and the bullies themselves are more likely to engage in criminal behavior later in life."
- The NICHD researchers surveyed 15,686 students in grades six-through-10, in public, parochial, and other private schools throughout the U.S. The nationally representative survey was part of the U.S. contribution to the World Health Organization's Health Behavior in School Children survey, an international effort in which many countries surveyed school-age children on a broad spectrum of health-related behaviors.
- For this study, researchers defined bullying as a type of behavior intended to harm or disturb the victim, explained the study's first author, Tonja R. Nansel, Ph.D. This behavior occurs repeatedly over time and involves an imbalance of power, with the more powerful person or group attacking the less powerful one, Dr. Nansel added. Bullying may be physical, involving hitting or otherwise attacking the other person; verbal, involving name-calling or threats; or psychological, involving spreading rumors or excluding a person.
- The children were asked to complete a questionnaire during a class period that asked how often they either bullied other students, or were the target of bullying behavior. A total of 10.6 percent of the children replied that they had "sometimes" bullied other children, a response category defined as "moderate" bullying. An additional 6.8 percent said they had bullied others once a week or more, defined as "frequent" bullying. Similarly, 8.5 percent said they had been targets of moderate bullying, and 8.4 percent said they were bullied frequently.
- Out of all the students, 13 percent said they had engaged in moderate or frequent bullying of others, while 10.6 percent said they had been bullied either moderately or frequently. Some students—6.3 percent—had both bullied others and been bullied themselves. In all, 29 percent of the students who responded to the survey had been involved in some aspect of bullying, either as a bully, as the target of bullying, or both.
- Bullying occurred most frequently in sixth through eighth grade, with little variation between urban, suburban, town, and rural areas; suburban youth were 2-3 percent less likely to bully others. Males were both more likely to bully others and more likely to be victims of bullying than were females. In addition, males were more likely to say they had been bullied physically (being hit, slapped, or pushed), while females more frequently said they were bullied verbally and psychologically (through sexual comments or rumors).

- Regarding verbal bullying, bullies were less likely to make derogatory statements about other students' religion or race. "There seem to be stronger social norms against making these kinds of statements than against belittling someone about their appearance or behavior," Dr. Nansel said.
- Both bullies and those on the receiving end of bullying were more likely to have difficulty adjusting to their environment both socially and psychologically. Students who were bullied reported having greater difficulty making friends and poorer relationships with their classmates. They were also much more likely than other students to report feelings of loneliness.
- "It's likely that kids who are socially isolated and have trouble making friends are more likely to be targets of bullying," Dr. Nansel said. "In turn, other kids may avoid children who are bullied, for fear of being bullied themselves."
- The study authors also reported that bullies were more likely to be involved in other problem behaviors, such as smoking and drinking alcohol, and to do more poorly academically. However, youth who were both bullies and recipients of bullying tended to fare the most poorly of all, experiencing social isolation, as well as doing poorly in school and engaging in problem behaviors, like smoking and drinking.
- "Unfortunately, we don't know much about this group," Dr. Nansel said. "We need to learn more about them to provide them with the help they need." She added that it is not known whether these children are first bullied by others and then imitate the bullying behavior they experienced, or if they are bullies who were later retaliated against.
- The study's authors concluded that the prevalence of bullying in U.S. schools suggests a need for more research to understand, and devise ways to intervene against, bullying. The authors noted that researchers in Norway and England have shown that school intervention programs can be successful. These programs focused on increasing awareness of bullying, increasing teacher and parent supervision, establishing clear rules prohibiting bullying, and providing support and protection for those bullied.

*The NICHD is part of the National Institutes of Health, the biomedical research arm of the federal government. The Institute sponsors research on development before and after birth; maternal, child, and family health; reproductive biology and population issues; and medical rehabilitation. NICHD publications, as well as information about the Institute, are available from the NICHD Web site, <http://www.nichd.nih.gov>, or from the NICHD Information Resource Center, 1-800-370-2943; e-mail [NICHDInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov](mailto:NICHDInformationResourceCenter@mail.nih.gov).*

Close

# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

MARCH 11, 2005



REPORT NUMBER 05.197

## ALASKA SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE SHARON CISSNA

BY KATHLEEN L. WAKFIELD, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

You asked about Alaska school districts' policies regarding bullying and/or harassment. Specifically, you wished to know how districts define bullying and harassment, and how they determine the motivating factors behind the behavior.

### POLICIES ON BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

We contacted all school districts in Alaska about their policies regarding bullying and/or harassment. We received responses from 17 districts: Copper River, Delta/Greely, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Haines Borough, Iditarod Area, Juneau, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Klawock, Lower Yukon, Mat-Su Borough, Mt. Edgecumbe, Northwest Arctic, Pribilof, St. Mary's, Southeast Island, Valdez, and Wrangell. We received the following response:

- ◆ Three of these school districts have no policies on bullying or harassment: Lower Yukon, St. Mary's, and Valdez. All three districts indicated that they are developing such policies.
- ◆ Copper River, Klawock, and Mt. Edgecumbe have specific policies that prohibit bullying.
- ◆ Juneau includes bullying in its policy prohibiting harassment.
- ◆ Administrators in the Mat-Su Borough School District recently developed a policy on harassment that includes bullying. The school board will address this proposed policy at its next meeting.

- Kenai, Pribilof, and Southeast Island districts have no specific policies against bullying, but include references to bullying under "Violent and Aggressive Behavior" and/or "Positive School Climate."
- Eight districts include sexual orientation or sexuality as a protected class in their policies on bullying and/or harassment. These districts are Copper River, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Haines, Juneau, Mat-Su, Mt. Edgecumbe, Northwest Arctic, and Pribilof.

The Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) Policy Reference Manual also contains policies on harassment, bullying, violent and aggressive conduct, and sexual harassment. The AASB policies specifically address sexual orientation as a protected class. According to AASB officials, 43 school districts use the AASB policy system.<sup>1</sup> For example, the Iditarod, Northwest Arctic, and Pribilof school districts use the AASB policy on harassment, and administrators in Valdez are recommending that the board adopt this language on harassment, as well.<sup>2</sup> Since the policy on bullying was only released in January 2005, AASB officials do not know how many districts have adopted it, although they expect that most districts will eventually do so.

Most district policies require the school principal or a designee to investigate all reports of bullying and/or harassment, and to prepare a written report of the incident and findings. Policies provide for a range of sanctions for students found guilty of bullying or harassment, up to and including expulsion for the most serious offenses.

The attached table contains the definitions of bullying and/or harassment for the 17 districts that responded to our request, and for the AASB.

### OTHER STATES' LAWS

Other states have also grappled with the issue of bullying in schools over the past several years. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, lawmakers in Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, South Carolina, and Texas have introduced legislation this year that addresses school bullying. New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington have already passed legislation requiring school districts to adopt policies on bullying. In addition, a lawmaker in Washington introduced a bill this year—SB 5849—to expand the state's anti-bullying law to include "cyber-bullying," or the use of "electronic means" such as communication via electronic mail, internet-based communications, pager service, cell phones, and electronic text messaging.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Personal communication from Sharon Young, Associate Executive Director, Association of Alaska School Boards, March 7, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> Personal communications from Joyce Turner, Board Secretary, Iditarod Area School District, February 28, 2005; Robert Boyle, Superintendent, Northwest Arctic School District, February 24, 2005; Malcolm Fleming, Superintendent, Pribilofs School District, February 24, 2005; Ernie Marzke, Superintendent, Valdez City School District, February 27, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> We include a copy of SB 5849 as Attachment A.

In addition, the U.S. Congress has also considered bullying in schools. In 2004, Representative John Shimkus of Illinois introduced H.R. 4778 to amend the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act to include bullying and harassment prevention programs. The bill died in committee.

## FIRST AMENDMENT CONCERNS

While states and school districts continue to work to address bullying and harassment in schools, some challenges have been mounted due to concerns about violations of the First Amendment's free speech clause. For example, in 2001 an anti-harassment policy adopted by the Pennsylvania State College Area School District was challenged in district court.<sup>4</sup> The plaintiffs—two students, and a school board member who also volunteered in the schools—argued that the policy prohibited their ability to express their beliefs about Christianity and certain moral topics such as homosexuality.

The district court disagreed with the plaintiffs, and granted the defendants' motion to dismiss. The plaintiffs appealed the case to the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, which reversed the judgment, finding that the policy was "unconstitutionally overbroad since it appeared to cover substantially more speech than could be prohibited under the Tinker substantial disruption test." Maintaining that a substantial amount of offensive, distasteful speech still would not constitute actionable harassment under either federal or state law, the appeals court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs.

Also in 2001, a Christian Coalition group opposed SB 5528 and HB 1444, anti-bullying bills introduced in the Washington legislature. The group argued that the bills were "a cover for gay-rights efforts that could eventually force schools to teach about homosexuality in a positive light."<sup>5</sup> Members of the coalition also contended that anti-bullying policies in schools could violate the free-speech rights of students who expressed opposition to homosexuality.<sup>6</sup>

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I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

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<sup>4</sup> *David Warren Sexs v. State College Area School District*, 240 F.3d; U.S. App. (2001).

<sup>5</sup> Mary Ann Zehr, "Legislatures Take on Bullies with New Laws," *Education Week*, May 16, 2001.

<sup>6</sup> Washington lawmakers subsequently passed HB 1444, and the governor signed it into law, in 2002. We include copies of HB 1444 and RCW 28A.300.285 as Attachment B. We also include a copy of "Ask the Children: Youth and Violence—Students Speak Out for a More Civil Society, Summary and Discussion Guide," prepared by the Families and Work Institute and The Colorado Trust, as Attachment C.

### School District Policies on Bullying and Harassment—Definitions

| School District                                   | Definition of Bullying  | Definition of Harassment   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Association of Alaska School Boards</b></p> | <p>Bullying is the repeated intimidation of others by inflicting or threatening physical, verbal, written, electronic, or emotional abuse, or damage to another's property. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, conduct such as physical abuse, damage or theft of another's property, social exclusion from activities, verbal taunts, name-calling, rumors, innuendoes, drawings, jokes, gestures, pranks, and put-downs relating to real or perceived differences, including another's culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, body size, physical appearance, clothing, personality, age, socioeconomic status, ability or disability, or other distinguishing characteristics. (Board Policy 5131.43(a))</p>  | <p>Harassment means intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. [Board Policy 5145.5(a)]</p> |
| <p><b>Copper River School District</b></p>        | <p>Bullying is repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronic, or emotional abuse, or damage to another's property. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, conduct such as physical abuse, damage or theft of another's property, social exclusion from activities, verbal taunts, name-calling, rumors, innuendoes, drawings, jokes, gestures, pranks, and put-downs relating to real or perceived differences, including another's culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, body size, physical appearance, clothing, personality, age, socioeconomic status, ability or disability, or other distinguishing characteristics. (Board Policy 5143)</p> |  |

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| Delta/Greely School District                 |  | Harassment means intimidation by threats of, or actual, physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt or prejudice, or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, or disability. (Board Policy 5005)                                  |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough School District |  | Harassment includes but is not limited to any oral, written, or physical conduct relating to race, creed, sex, national origin, marital status, political or religious beliefs, physical or mental conditions, family, social or cultural background, or sexual orientation that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent that it substantially interferes with or limits an individual's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive academic environment. (Board Policy 1012)                             |
| Haines Borough Schools                       |  | Harassment means intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, or disability. (Board Policy 4119.12(a), and 5145(a)) |

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|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Iditarod Area School District | No policies—adopted AASB policies on discrimination and sexual harassment. |  |
| Juneau School District        |  | <p>...the Board does not tolerate discrimination against, or harassment of, any member of the Juneau school community on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, age, political or religious beliefs, mental or physical condition or disability, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, social background, economic status, culture, or sexual orientation. Discriminatory harassment includes, but is not limited to, bullying, slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes, teasing, stereotyping, sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, physical assault or abuse, or other forms of verbal or physical harassment which adversely affect a person's employment or education or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or working environment. Harassment includes creation of a climate of hostility and intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual or group. (Board Policy 1120)</p> |

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| Kenai Peninsula Borough School District                | <p>No specific policy, but includes the following language on bullying under other sections:</p> <p><b>Violent and aggressive conduct:</b> Violent and aggressive acts include, but are not limited to, possession, threat with or use of a weapon, physical assault, verbal abuse, intimidation, extortion, bullying, gang participation, harassment, stalking, defiance, and racial slurs.</p> <p><b>Positive School Climate:</b> Students shall be subject to disciplinary procedures for bullying other students or for using insults, slurs, or fighting words which may disrupt school activities. (Board Policies 3522.8 and 5137)</p>   | <p>Harassment means intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, marital status, disability, or any other real or perceived difference. (Board Policy 4119.12)</p> |
| Klawock City School District                           | <p>Bullying takes many forms: gossip, cruel comments, insults, snubbing, put-downs, threats (physical or verbal) and violent attacks. It is deliberate, hurtful behavior that is often repeated and a form of anti-social behavior that has no place at school. It is the intent of this policy to make sure all members of our school community remain vigilant and consistent to help insure that bullying behavior is actively resisted and stopped, and that we provide a safe school environment for all students. Any acts of bullying, at any level, will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. (Board Policy 5131.95)</p>  |  |
| Lower Yukon School District                            | No formal policy.   | No formal policy.  |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District <sup>1</sup> | <p>Harassment, bullying, and discrimination are prohibited. Abusive language, sexual harassment, inappropriate physical contact, racial or ethnic slurs, hazing, and other similar provocative actions are included in these categories of prohibited conduct. Harassment is behavior which is intended to trouble or annoy someone. It is the exertion of power by one person over another; it may be based on misunderstanding or a deliberate act and often contains a subjective perspective. Discrimination and harassment may be based on culture, ability, physical appearance, size, sexuality, or religion, among other things. Bullying is defined as an aggressive behavior that is intentional and that involves an imbalance of power or strength. Harassment, bullying, and discrimination can take many forms such as hitting, tripping, kicking, punching, unwanted touching, name-calling, swearing, threatening, spreading rumors, ignoring, staring, gesturing, "standing over," preventing someone from joining in an activity, hiding, sending mean notes or e-mails, or damaging someone else's property. [Board Policy 5144.1(12)]</p> |  |

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| ML. Edgecumbe                    | Bullying is the repeated intimidation of others by inflicting or threatening physical, verbal, written, electronic, or emotional abuse, or damage to another's property. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, conduct such as physical abuse, damage or theft of another's property, social exclusion from activities, verbal taunts, name-calling, rumors, innuendoes, drawings, jokes, gestures, pranks, and put-downs relating to real or perceived differences, including another's culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, body size, physical appearance, clothing, personality, age, socioeconomic status, ability or disability, or other distinguishing characteristics. |   |
| Northwest Arctic School District |   | Harassment means intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability [Board Policy 5145.5(a)]  |
| Pribilof School District         | No specific policy, but includes the following language on bullying under "Positive School Climate:" The schools shall not tolerate any comments or gestures which are vulgar or obscene or which denigrate others on account of gender, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, handicap or disadvantage. Students shall be subject to disciplinary procedures for bullying other students or using insults, slurs, or fighting words which may disrupt school activities. (Board Policy 5137)   | Harassment means intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, parenthood, or disability. [Board Policy 5145.5(b)] |
| St. Mary's School District       | No policy.  | No policy.  |

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| Southeast Island School District   | No specific policy, but includes the following language on bullying under "Positive School Climate:" The schools shall not tolerate any comments or gestures which are vulgar or obscene or which denigrate others on account of gender, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, handicap or disadvantage. Students shall be subject to disciplinary procedures for bullying other students or using insults, slurs, or fighting words which may disrupt school activities. (Board Policy 5137) |  |
| Valdez City School District  | No policy.  | May adopt Association of Alaska School Boards language for harassment.   |
| Wrangell Public Schools  | No policy.  | Harassment on the basis of sex, color, race, religion, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, or parenthood is specifically prohibited. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, slurs, epithets, threats, derogatory comments, unwelcome jokes, teasing, unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors, displaying offensive words, objects or pictures and other verbal or physical conduct which adversely affects an individual's educational opportunities, or has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's education or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education environment. (Board Policy IV-044.) |
| <p><b>Notes:</b> Please note that those districts that submitted their policies on bullying may also have policies on harassment. Most districts also have policies specific to sexual harassment. 1. This is the proposed policy for the Matanuska-Sustina Borough School District, which the board will address at their March 16, 2005 meeting.</p> |   |  |
| <p><b>Sources:</b> Alaska Association of School Boards; school district superintendents.</p>   |   |  |



## Education Program

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### School Bullying: Legislation and Laws

#### 2005 Enacted Legislation

##### Tennessee

###### HB 2114/SB 1621

Requires each Local Education Agency (LEA) to adopt a policy that prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying and to forward a copy of the policy to the commissioner of education by January 1, 2006; encourages school employees, volunteers, and students to report incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying to the appropriate school authorities; provides school employee who promptly report an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying immunity against any suit based upon the reporting employee's failure to remedy the reported act; and encourages school districts to form harassment, intimidation or bullying prevention programs and task forces.

##### Virginia

###### HB 2266

Directs the Board of Education to include bullying in its standards for school board policies on student conduct and requires school boards to include (i) instruction on the inappropriateness of bullying in their character education programs and (ii) bullying provisions in their student conduct codes. In addition, the measure requires the reporting of incidents of stalking to principals and division superintendents. Finally, except as may be prohibited by federal law, regulation, or jurisprudence, principals must report certain violent acts, stalking, and other conduct to parents of the minor student who is the target of the conduct; included in this report is disclosure that the incident has been reported to law enforcement, and that the parent may contact law enforcement for further information. This bill is identical to HB 2879 (Marshall, R.G.).

###### HB 2267

Civil immunity; school employees or volunteers reporting alleged acts of bullying or crimes. Immunizes school employees or volunteers from civil liability for the prompt good faith reporting to the appropriate school official, in compliance with specified procedures, of any alleged acts of bullying or any crimes.

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#### 2004 Enacted Legislation

##### New Hampshire

###### HB 1162

Requires school districts to notify the parents or legal guardians of the district's policies on bullying and requires that a report of any bullying incidents be made by telephone and by a written report sent by mail to the parent or legal guardian of the pupils involved.

##### Vermont

###### HB 629

Directs schools to include bullying in their policies for responding to misconduct on and off school grounds; and directs the commissioner of education to update model policies on student discipline to include a definition of bullying, a process for reporting acts of bullying, and responses to bullying.

#### Harassment Legislation

## State Anti-bullying Policies

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X |   | X | X | X |
|   |   | X |   |   |
| X |   |   |   |   |
|   | X |   |   |   |
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| X | X | X | X |   |
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| X | X | X | X |   |
| X |   | X | X | X |

Prepared by the National Conference of State Legislatures -- March 2006  
 Staff Contact: Sara Vitaska, (303) 856-1647, [sara.vitaska@ncsl.org](mailto:sara.vitaska@ncsl.org)

**Vermont**

**HB 111**

Makes a variety of changes to the guidelines for harassment policies that educational institutions are required to maintain. The general definition of harassment is expanded to include written or visual conduct and conduct motivated by a student's perceived as well as actual membership in a protected category. Racial harassment is defined to mean conduct directed at the characteristics of a student's or a student's family member's actual or perceived race or color and includes the use of epithets, stereotypes, racial slurs, comments, insults, derogatory remarks, gestures, threats, graffiti, displays, or circulations of written or visual material, and taunts on manner of speech and negative references to racial customs.

**Virginia**

**HB 1331**

Relating to including hazing in the Board's guidelines and model policies for and school boards' regulations on codes of student conduct.

**Archived Legislation**

**Select School Safety Enactments (1994-2003): Bullying and Student Harassment**

*National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)*

By Finessa Ferrell-Smith

| <b>SCHOOL BULLYING LAWS</b> |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>STATE/TERRITORY</b>      | <b>CITATION</b>   |
| Arkansas                    | A.C.A § 6-18-514 (2004)                                 |
| Arizona                     | HB 2368   |
| California                  | Cal Ed Code § 32261, 32265, 32270, 35294.21             |
| Colorado                    | C.R.S § 22-32-109.1 (2004)                              |
| Connecticut                 | Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222d (2003)                       |
| Georgia                     | O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4 (2004)                            |
| Guam                        | 17 G.C.A § 3112.1                                       |
| Illinois                    | 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14 (2004)                              |
| Louisiana                   | La. R.S. 17:416.13 (2004)                               |
| New Hampshire               | RSA 193-F3 (2004)                                       |
| New Jersey                  | N.J. Stat § 18A:37-13 (2004)                            |
| New York                    | NY CLS Educ § 2801-a (2004)                             |
| Oklahoma                    | 70 Okl. St. § 24-100.3-5 (2004)                         |
| Oregon                      | ORS § 339.356   |
| Puerto Rico                 | L.P.R.A § 149f (2002)                                   |
| Rhode Island                | R.I. Gen Laws § 16-21-24 (2004)                         |
| Vermont                     | 16 V.S.A. § 565 (2004)                                  |
| Virginia                    | Va. Code § 22.1-208.01, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-279.6 (2005) |
| Washington                  | Rev. Code Wash. (ARCW) § 28A.300.285 (2004)             |
| West Virginia               | W. Va Code § 18-2C-1-5 (2004)                           |

Source: NCSL 2005

Visitor counts for this page.

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| <b>State</b> | <b>Bill Number</b> | <b>Last Action-Date</b>   | <b>Summary</b>   |
|--------------|--------------------|---|--|
| Alabama      | HB 246             | Jan-10, 2006—To House Committee on Education  | N/A  |
| Alaska       | HB 233             | Apr-28, 2005—From House Special Committee on Education: Do pass with substitute             | Requires every governing body to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.   |
| Alaska       | HB 482             | Feb-13, 2006—To House Special Committee on Education  | Outlines the requirement for adopting a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Outlines reporting procedures.   |
| Arizona      | HB 2325            | Jan-17, 2006—Additionally referred to House Committee on Rules                              | Requires the school district to provide training to employed teachers to recognize and prohibit harassment, intimidation or bullying.  |
| Arizona      | HB 2368            | Apr-20, 2005—Chapter No. 155  | Requires every governing body to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Outlines reporting procedures.  |
| Florida      | HB 1303<br>SB 1848 | Mar-29, 2005—In House. Laid on table.<br>Apr-13, 2005—Withdrawn from further consideration. | Requires each local school district to adopt a policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment on school property, at school-sponsored functions, or on the school bus.   |
| Florida      | SB 1384            | Jan-31, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education   | Prohibits bullying or harassment of any student or school employee. Requires each local school district to adopt a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment on school property, at school-sponsored functions, or on the school bus. Outlines requirements for the policy.     |
| Georgia      | HB 424             | Feb-10, 2005—To House Committee on Education  | Allows each local education board to define bullying. Extends policies prohibiting bullying to apply to students from kindergarten to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade. Requires policies be developed in consultation with parent-teacher organizations, local school councils, and other |

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|               |                |   | community based organizations. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.   |
| Hawaii        | HR 23<br>SCR 3 | Apr-7, 2005—In House. Read third time. Passed House.<br>Jan-25, 2006—Introduced | Requests schools to implement policy to reduce intimidation and promote safe and peaceful school environments that encourage learning.   |
| Idaho         | HCR 32         | Feb-2, 2006—To House Committee on Education                                     | Designates September 10-16, 2006, as Bullying Awareness Week   |
| Illinois      | SB 2630        | Feb-16, 2006—Passed Senate***To House   | Allows each school district to adopt policy preventing bullying in all grades.   |
| Indiana       | SB 285         | Apr-27, 2005—Public Law No. 106   | Requires the department of education to develop training for identifying, preventing, and intervening in bullying. Outlines minimum requirements for policy preventing bullying. |
| Iowa          | HB 382         | Feb-23, 2005—In House Committee on Education                                    | Requires the board of directors of each school district to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.       |
| Iowa          | SSB 2126       | Feb-8, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education                                    | Requires the board of directors of each school district to adopt and implement a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.       |
| Kentucky      | HB 270         | Feb-6, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education                                    | Requires school districts to have plans, policies, and procedures for harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Outlines requirements for the policy.                               |
| Kentucky      | SB 15          | Jan-5, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education                                    | Requires school districts to establish a code prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying. Outlines requirements for the code.   |
| Maine         | HB 419         | Jun-3, 2005—Public Law No. 307  | Defines bullying and harassment as unacceptable student behavior.  |
| Massachusetts | HB 1029        | Sept-15, 2005—In Joint  | Requires the Department of Education to adopt policy   |

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|               |         | Committee of Education: Heard.<br>Eligible for Executive Session                              | prohibiting bullying. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.   |
| Massachusetts | HB 1067 | Sept-15, 2005—In Joint<br>Committee on Education: Heard.<br>Eligible for Executive Session    | Establishes, in consultation with parents, guardians, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where applicable and, where appropriate, the community at large, each public school district shall promulgate and implement a safe school plan, including procedures for preventing and disciplining bullying. |
| Massachusetts | HB 1068 | Sept-15, 2005—In Joint<br>Committee on Education: Heard.<br>Eligible for Executive Session    | Requires each county/school board of education to establish a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.  |
| Massachusetts | HB 1109 | Sept-15, 2005—In Joint<br>Committee on Education: Heard.<br>Eligible for Executive Session    | Requires the commissioner of education to update and distribute a model school plan on student discipline on bullying.  |
| Massachusetts | HB 1181 | Sept-15, 2005—In Joint<br>Committee on Education: Heard.<br>Eligible for Executive Session    | Requires the department of education to mandate every public school to create a "safe school plan." Outlines the requirements for the "safe school plan."   |
| Massachusetts | HB 3809 | Feb-15, 2006—In Joint Committee<br>on Labor and Workforce<br>Development: Set aside for Study | Requires the division on occupation safety to analyze the cost of psychological harassment in the workplace.  |
| Michigan      | HB 4026 | Jan-27, 2005—To House<br>Committee on Education   | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a bullying policy. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.  |
| Michigan      | HB 4581 | Mar-24, 2005—To House<br>Committee on Education   | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.  |

|           |                          |  |  |
|-----------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Michigan  | HB 5616                  | Jan-31, 2006—To House Committee on Education   | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements.  |
| Michigan  | SB 44                    | Jan-25, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education  | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.   |
| Michigan  | SB 369                   | Apr-12, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education  | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.   |
| Michigan  | SB 1012                  | Jan-26, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education  | Requires the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements.  |
| Minnesota | HB 14                    | Jan-6, 2005—To House Committee on Education Policy and Reform  | Requires the commissioner of education to make a model policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying available to school boards and schools. Requires each school board to adopt policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying of any student. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy. |
| Minnesota | HB 408<br>SB 40<br>SB 41 | Jan-24, 2005—To House Committee on Education Policy and Reform<br>Jan-6, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education<br>Jan-6, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education | Requires the commissioner of education to make a model policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying available to school boards and schools. Requires each school board to adopt policy prohibiting intimidation and bullying of any student. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy. |

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| Minnesota  | HB 2152<br>SB 1939                     | Mar-29, 2005—To House Committee on Civil Law and Elections<br>Mar-29, 2005—To Senate Committee on Judiciary  | Allows school districts to release information on a juvenile pertaining to incidences of bullying to the juvenile justice system.   |
| Missouri   | HB 1218                                | Jan-27, 2006—To House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education  | Requires each school district to establish and adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.  |
| Missouri   | HB 1502                                | Jan-26, 2006—To House Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education  | Prohibits bullying or discrimination on school property, at any school function, or on a school bus. Requires each school district to establish and adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy. |
| Nebraska   | LR 55                                  | Mar-23, 2005—Passed Legislature  | Designates September 12-16, 2005, as Nebraska School Bullying Awareness Week.   |
| Nebraska   | LR 109                                 | May-9, 2005—To Legislative Committee on Executive Board  | Authorizes a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a policy prohibiting bullying behavior in public schools.   |
| New Jersey | AB 744<br>AB 3791<br>SB 993<br>SB 2222 | Jan-10, 2006—To Assembly Committee on Education<br>Feb-14, 2005—To Assembly Committee on Education<br>Jan-17, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education<br>May-23, 2005—From Senate Committee on Education | Prohibits bullying, intimidation and harassment from occurring through electronic communication, including but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer or pager.  |
| New Jersey | AB 1181                                | Jan-10, 2006—To Assembly Committee on Education  | Appropriates \$70,000 in FY 2005 to the Department of Education to reimburse school districts for the costs of establishing programs for the prevention of  |

|            |                    |   |   |
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|            |                    |   | harassment and bullying.  |
| New Mexico | HJM 8              | Jan-19, 2006—To Senate Committee on Corporations and Transportation.                      | Requests the Labor Department to convene a task force to study bullying in the workplace.   |
| New York   | AB 1755            | Jan-21, 2005—To Assembly Committee on Education   | Requires instruction on civility, citizenship and character education to include methods of discouraging bullying. Prohibits bullying on school property or school functions. Requires school employees to report suspected bullying. Specifies bullying shall be disciplined according to the district's code of conduct. Establishes aggravated harassment of a teacher or school personnel is a class B misdemeanor. |
| New York   | AB 3185<br>AB 9406 | Feb-1, 2005—To Assembly Committee on Codes<br>Jan-11, 2006—To Assembly Committee on Codes | Prohibits bullying on school property or school functions. Requires school employees to report suspected bullying. Specifies bullying shall be disciplined according to the district's code of conduct. Grants immunity to school employees that report bullying. Requires the commissioner to create a central registry for reporting alleged bullying or hazing.  |
| New York   | AB 8218            | May-12, 2005—To Assembly Committee on Education   | Requires the commissioner, in consultation with parents, school personnel and other interested parties, to promulgate rules and regulations prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation.  |
| New York   | SB 5703            | Jun-15, 2005—To Senate Committee on Rules   | Creates an anti-bullying act. Prohibits bullying on school property or school functions. Specifies bullying shall be disciplined according to the district's code of conduct.   |
| Ohio       | HB 276             | Jan-31, 2006—To Senate Committee on Education   | Requires each board of education, in consultation with parents, school employees, school volunteers,  |

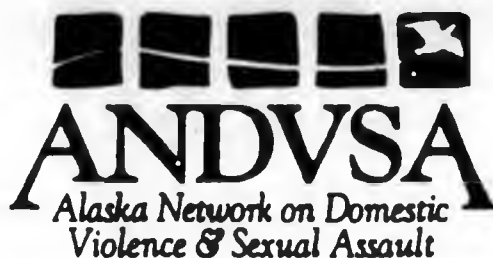
|                |                    |  |  |
|----------------|--------------------|--|--|
|                |                    |  | students, and community members, to establish policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation.  |
| Pennsylvania   | HB 178             | Jun-29, 2005—In House. Laid on Table   | Requests school entities to adopt policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation.  |
| Pennsylvania   | HB 772<br>SB 1013  | Mar-14, 2005—To House Committee on Education<br>Nov-14, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education    | Requires each school district to develop a coordinated bullying and student intimidation prevention plan. Requires the plan to be submitted to the Department of Education for approval.   |
| Pennsylvania   | SB 71              | Jan-31, 2005—To Senate Committee on Education  | Requires all school entities to establish policy or student code of conduct prohibiting bullying.  |
| South Carolina | HB 3573            | Feb-16, 2005—To House Committee on Education and Public Works                                    | Requires each local school district, in consultation with parents and guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administrators, and community representatives, to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. |
| Tennessee      | HB 2114            | May-19, 2005—Public Chaptered. Chapter No. 202   | Requires each school district to adopt policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.  |
| Tennessee      | HB 2470<br>SB 2687 | Feb-8, 2006—To House Committee on Education<br>Feb-9, 2006—Introduced                            | Requires local education agency to adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying of teachers by principals or administrators. Outlines minimum requirements for the policy.   |
| Utah           | SCR 1              | Feb-16, 2006—To House Committee on Health and Human Services                                     | Request parents, individuals, and organizations to review and assist in the adoption of policies prohibiting bullying.   |
| Virginia       | HB 2266<br>HB 2879 | Mar-21, 2005—Acts of Assembly. Chapter No. 461<br>Mar-21, 2005—Acts of Assembly. Chapter No. 484 | Requires bullying to be included in the code for student conduct.  |
| Virginia       | HB 2267            | Mar-21, 2005—Acts of Assembly.   | Prohibits a school employee or school volunteer from   |

|                   |                                |  |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
|                   |                                | <b>Chapter No. 462</b>   | <b>being held liable for reporting alleged acts of bullying.</b>   |
| <b>Washington</b> | <b>HB 1968</b>                 | <b>Mar-3, 2005—Referred to House Committee on Appropriations</b>   | <b>Encourages employers to create policy prohibiting bullying in the workplace.</b>  |
| <b>Wisconsin</b>  | <b>AB 627</b><br><b>SB 310</b> | <b>Aug-30, 2005—To assembly Committee on Education</b><br><b>Jan-6, 2006—In assembly. Amendment No. 3 offered.</b> | <b>Requires the Department of Public Instruction to create a model school policy on bullying. Requires each school board to develop and adopt a policy prohibiting bullying.</b> |

Created February 24, 2006

Source: Lexis Search

**Juneau Office**  
130 Seward St #209  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 586-3650  
Fax: (907) 463-4493  
www.andvsa.org



**Sitka Office**  
PO Box 6631  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Phone: (907) 747-7545  
Fax: (907) 747-7547

April 6, 2006

The Honorable Tom Anderson  
State House of Representatives  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Anderson:

The Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault is a statewide coalition of member shelter and community based programs that provide direct services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. We would like to thank you for introducing House Bill 482, "An Act related to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools", and offer our support.

Bullying in our schools is a form of interpersonal violence. As with all such violence, there can be devastating consequences and we must rise up as a community to condemn and prevent it. Many of our member programs work in schools across Alaska to teach children and staff about the damaging effects of bullying, and to teach them positive, effective responses. Unfortunately, all too often children tell us there is lots of bullying in their schools, they expect it and they think there's nothing adults can do to change it. We believe this legislation will be a positive influence and help protect children.

Thank you for your leadership in addressing this issue.

Please let me know if I can offer other support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brown  
Executive Director

---

Member Programs

Anchorage AWAIC, AWRC, STAR Barrow AWIC Bethel TWC Cordova CFRC Dillingham SAFE Fairbanks IAC  
Homer SPHH Juneau AWARE Kenai LeeShore Center Ketchikan WISH Kodiak KWRCC Kotzebue MFCC  
Nome BSWG Palmer AFS Seward SCS Sitka SAFV Unalaska USAFV Valdez AVV

**TESTIMONY HB 482**  
**TOM HARVEY, NEA-ALASKA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chairman Newman and members of the House Special Committee on Education. My name is Tom Harvey and I serve as the Executive Director for NEA-Alaska. NEA-Alaska represents over 11,400 active public school employees and over 1,300 retired public school teachers.

NEA-Alaska thanks Rep. Anderson for bringing this legislation forward. NEA-Alaska has adopted several resolutions that address the issues of harassment, intimidation and bullying.

We believe that a safe and effective school climate is necessary for promoting educational excellence in public schools. The Association also believes that all education employees, parents/guardians, students, school governing boards, and community members and agencies must work cooperatively to establish and maintain safe and orderly school communities. Students and education employees must be safe from physical, verbal, and psychological violence, the threat thereof, and all forms of harassment. There must be procedures to prevent and eliminate all types of harassment that might occur. Plans and procedures regarding discipline and/or harassment must include due process.

These plans and procedures must be provided to police and other community agencies that might be called upon when harassment, intimidation or bullying is detected. Parents/guardians must be made aware of the existence of these plans.

The Association also believes that students must be taught strategies and skills, including conflict resolution, that develop respect, self-discipline, and self-control. Students must learn to distinguish between their own rights and responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of others. There must be appropriate services and placement within regular education and alternative education programs and/or with state and/or community agencies for students who disrupt the learning environment or who are dangerous to other students, education employees, and themselves.

The Association believes that a safe and effective school has a positive environment in which education employees, students, parents/guardians, and the community care for, communicate with, respect, understand, and trust each other.

The Association has developed several resources for schools, parents, students and community groups to utilize in their efforts to combat harassment, intimidation and bullying. Those resources are attached to this testimony.

Every school in Alaska ought to be a sanctuary where all students can learn, teachers can teach, and other school employees can work without the fear of intimidation or harassment. Many school districts are already engaged in good efforts to address these issues. Rep. Anderson's proposed legislation guarantees that every school will take the steps necessary to provide a good school climate for learning.

## **Safe Schools Manual: A Resource on Making Schools, Communities, and Families Safe for Children**

NEA's *Safe Schools Manual: A Resource on Making Schools, Communities, and Families Safe for Children* synthesizes the best research on school safety and offers guidelines on making children safe in three broad areas: schools, communities, and families. This important publication was updated in October 2005. Please use this resource in your community.  
<http://www.nea.org/schoolsafety/safeschoolsmanual.html>

## **NEA School Safety Resources**

<http://www.nea.org/schoolsafety/nearesources-schoolsafety.html>

## **NEA's National Bullying Awareness Campaign**

NEA has been working with other national organizations to reduce, and eventually eradicate, bullying in America's public schools. Read [more about the problem and how you can help](#). And here are some additional resources here on [www.NEA.org](http://www.NEA.org) on bullying:

- [The ABCs of School Bullying](#): Tips for parents and teachers
- [Stop Bullying Now!](#): activities to teach tolerance and prevent bullying
- [Conflict Resolution](#): From bullying to international justice, activity ideas from PBS TeacherSource address conflict resolution
- [A Child's Plea Becomes an Adult's Crusade](#): Author Jodee Blanco talks about bullying
- [Are You a Bully?](#): Do teachers bully, too? Or, is it good classroom management?



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

www.bgcalaska.org

Representative Tom Anderson  
State Capitol Room 408  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

April 19, 2006

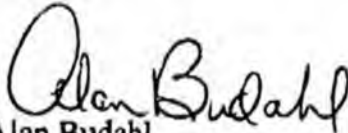
Dear Representative Anderson,

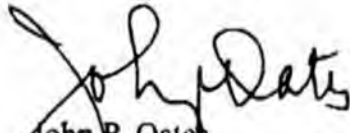
On behalf of Boys & Girls Clubs Board of Directors and professional staff, we are writing to extend Boys & Girls Clubs' support for House Bill 482, legislation designed to encourage anti-bullying policies for schools and youth agencies. As you are well aware, our organization has been operating youth development programs for 40 years. In 1998, we eagerly undertook a Statewide Expansion Initiative that has developed Clubhouses in 29 rural Alaskan communities. This initiative, combined with our steady expansion in urban communities, has broadened our total impact to 30,000 youth in 38 Alaskan communities.

Our members' challenges range from peer pressure to poor grades, hunger, abusive homes, or families stretched thin due to health issues. For every child that walks through a Clubhouse door, we listen, we comfort, we challenge and cheer. Boys & Girls Clubs looks forward to cooperating with school districts around the state to develop, implement and enforce anti-bullying and harassment policies to ensure safe and nurturing schools and Clubhouses.

Again, thank you for sponsoring this legislation for vulnerable youth. Boys & Girls Club appreciates your support of our programs and your commitment to Alaska's youth.

Sincerely,

  
 Alan Budahl  
 Board of Directors, Chair

  
 John P. Oates  
 President and Chief Executive

### Main Office

2300 W. 36th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99517  
Tel: 907-248-5437  
Fax: 907-248-0047

### President & CEO

John P. Oates  
Tel: 907-770-7337  
Fax: 907-770-7348  
joates@bgcalaska.org

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 Kevin Meyer, Alaska House of Representatives  
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**Testimony in Favor of HOUSE BILL No. 482 (EDU)**

**Submitted by**

**Allan A. Morotti, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor**

**University of Alaska Fairbanks**

I am in favor of this legislation as it addresses directly a significant safety issue facing public and private education today. I offer the following studies as cited in the book titled *Bullying from Both Sides: Strategic Interventions for Working with Bullies and Victims* by Dr. Walter Roberts, Jr. (2005) for support for my position. In addition to this work, Dr. Roberts and I have published and presented on this topic together at the national level.

**American Association of University Women Educational Foundation**  
***Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing, and Sexual Harassment in School (2001)***

2,064 students, ages 8-11, were surveyed on their experiences with both sexual and generic harassment.

83% of girls and 79% of boys reported having experienced some form of harassment in their schools.

76% of all students indicated that this harassment was nonphysical.

58% of all students indicated that this harassment was physical.

28% of boys and 15% of girls indicated that the gym locker room as a location to receive nonphysical harassment.

15% of boys and 9% of girls indicated that the restroom was also a location to receive nonphysical harassment.

Approximately 56%-to-61% of both physical and nonphysical harassment was reported as happening in the classroom where a teacher was present.

Approximately 64%-to-71% of both physical and nonphysical harassment occurred in school hallways.

**Kaiser Family Foundation and Nickelodeon Television**  
***Talking with Kids About Tough Issues: A National Survey of Parents and Kids (2001)***

This survey included responses from 823 children and adolescents.

55% of 8-11 year olds and 68% of 12-15 year olds said that bullying was a significant problem for children their age.

74% of 8-11 year olds and 86% of 12-15 year olds indicated that children were bullied or teased in their schools.

43% of 8-11 year olds and 67% of 12-15 year olds indicated that peers in their schools were treated badly because they were different.

38% of 8-11 year olds and 60% of 12-15 year olds reported that peers in their schools were threatened with violence.

54% of 8-11 year olds and 40% of 12-15 year olds said that they would like to know more about ways to stop bullying and teasing.

**The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)**  
***Bullying Behaviors Among U.S. Youths: Prevalence and Association with Psychological Adjustment (2001)***

JAMA surveyed approximately 16,000 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in both American public and private schools

Approximately 30% of the students said that they were somehow involved in the bully-victim relationship either as a bully, victim, or both.

Approximately 56% of the students reported either being hit, slapped, or pushed.

Nearly 60% of the students indicated that they had been subjected to rumors at one time or another.

More than 50% of the students stated that they had been the victim of comments regarding their sexuality, or of a sexual nature, or had sexual gestures made toward them.

Furthermore, a fact commonly cited in the ultimate act of violence toward others (i.e., school shootings) is that over 50% the "school shooter(s)" have been reported as having a history of being bullied or harassed at school. In utilizing research on this topic in our national presentations (Roberts & Morotti) there identifiable consequences related to the fear of being victimized in school. These include: distraction from educational goals; decline in academic performance as evidenced by the correlation between fearfulness and lower GPAs; increased absence rates with no attending illnesses; and a decline in students' ability to learn in class. Therefore, based upon this knowledge I fully support HB 482 in order to make our schools a safe learning environment for all children and adolescents.

Respectfully yours,

Allan Morotti, Ph.D.

Tried to Recite ~~the~~ May 1, 2006

Was written for

Subject: Parent intervention meeting

ORIGINAL

My name is, Judy Komorowski, I am the parent of, Eric James Peitz. I called this meeting to talk about the bullying in school, and also at school functions, which is getting out of control.

I will give a little background on Eric first so that you may better understand where I'm coming from. All of you may not be aware that Eric is a special ed. Student. He is labeled as having post-traumatic stress disorder, and A.D.H.D. He was sexually, physically, and mentally abused, from the age of 4yrs. old till about 6 yrs old. These people, that where involved in this, used other children to get at more children. Eric has blocked this out. I brought Eric up here to be with me, to feel safe, to help him heal, and to help him understand, and overcome. To be all that he is capable of being even through all the adversity that life poses. I bought 10 acres of land, 5 miles out of town 7 yrs ago because I felt this was a good and safe community. So that I can give my three children a safe place for them to be, grow, and hopefully raise my grandchildren.

Now, lets to get to the purpose of this meeting. Since Eric started school here he has been bullied. Eric can be annoying at times but all children can be. Eric does not want to be labeled a "snitch", so he has kept quiet, until it becomes to much for him to emotionally handle, then he loses control and has an outburst of emotions. These bullies wait until you, the teacher, are not looking and nail him. There is also hazing going on at school functions that needs to be stopped. These incidents aren't just happening to my child, but also to many other children. There are many children that are home-schooled because of the bullying by other children or in some cases by a teacher or coach. These practices need to be stopped. Sometimes it takes a lot for things to change and for someone to step forward. Well I'm stepping forward and saying "No More"!

We are a good community. Let's start working together, and act like one for the safety of ALL STUDENTS, not just mine. I know that your jobs aren't easy. But if we all work together we can effect positive change for all students. I know that budget cuts limit what can be done. But I also know that there are a lot of good caring people in this community that want there children safe.

Some of my suggestions for you as teachers are;

Be a role model not a role maker. Be a teacher they remember as a good teacher not a bad one. Teach them that diversity is a strength not a weakness. Reinforce good behavior, disciplinary actions for those that are showing bad behaviors. Have more parent teacher meetings to inform the parents of the bad behavior. Remember to be open-minded. Keep your personal opinions to yourself. Prejudice and bigotry should not be enforced in the class. Pay Attention, for what you see on the surface may not be showing the undercurrent of what is really happening. If you're having a bad day or even week, it's not the student's fault don't take it out on them. Earn the child's respect not expect it. Don't be part of the rumor mill, question it. Reinforce consequences of actions. Students do notice. You are shaping lives, realize it everyday. Remember why you became a teacher. And, hazing will not be tolerated.

My child should be able to join a school program, or just go to school, without fear of sexual, mental or emotional harm. Please be aware that all of these things are happening in your school. Are you aware that you may be part of these actions by your complacency? I feel some things need to change now. Because of the proposed gas pipeline, and eventually the railroad, this town will be

ORIGINAL

growing and expanding. If change is not started soon, and these things are not addressed and stopped, what will it be like then? Every child, not just mine, should be able to have a safe environment in school for learning and growing. This is why I called this meeting today. Not just for my child, but for every other child that walks through the doors into this school. Remember that you are employed by the people of this state and community. Maybe we could get grants for hall monitors, or even parents to help. Let's be positive and work together to make a more safe environment for all students. Thank you for your time and if you have any questions or comments of your own please feel free to voice them now. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy Komorowski

Judy Komorowski

P.O. Box 58

TOK AK 99780

cell phone (907) 590-1464

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/25/06

FURTHER: Judiciary

DATE TURNED  
IN TO OFFICE: 5.5.06

Health, Education and Social Services Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 482(JUD)

HB 482 SCHOOL:BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION

"An Act relating to harassment, intimidation, and bullying in schools."

and recommends:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- adopt previous \_\_\_\_\_ CS \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

**CS Senate Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 New Title

**SCS House Bill:**  
 Same Title  
 Technical Title Change  
 New Title w/ SCR # \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN# |
|------------|------|--------|--------|------|-----|
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):**

| Department | Date | Fiscal | Indet. | Zero | FN# |
|------------|------|--------|--------|------|-----|
| LAW        | 3/14 |        |        | X    |     |
| EED        | 3/15 | X      |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |
|            |      |        |        |      |     |

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

| SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS: | DO PASS | DO NOT PASS | NO REC | AMEND |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|--------|-------|
| <i>Gary Wilbur</i>              |         |             | ✓      |       |
| <i>[Signature]</i>              | ✓       |             |        |       |
| <i>Howard Callan</i>            |         |             | ✓      |       |
|                                 |         |             |        |       |
|                                 |         |             |        |       |
| CHAIR: <i>Paul Ryan</i>         |         |             | ✓      |       |

**HCR**

**5**

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Chair*  
STATE AFFAIRS

*Member*  
RESOURCES

*Member*  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Member*  
WAYS AND MEANS



**REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON**  
House District 35

*Session:*  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone 907-465-2689  
Fax 907-465-3472  
1-800-665-2689  
Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

*Interim:*  
345 W. Sterling Highway  
Suite 102B  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
Phone 907-235-2921  
Fax 907-235-4008

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senator Fred Dyson, Chair  
Senate HESS Committee

**FROM:** Representative Paul Seaton

**DATE:** Thursday, March 16, 2006

**RE:** Hearing Request for HCR 5

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Seaton".

I respectfully request a hearing before the Senate HESS Committee on HCR 5  
re: Encouraging the Fluoridation of Community Water Systems.

In summary, HCR 5 does the following things:

- Recognizes the benefits of fluoridating community water systems
- Encourages communities to fluoridate their community water systems
- Requires new community water systems to be engineered so as to easily incorporate fluoridation in the future

Attached please find sponsor statement; HCR 5; fiscal notes; 23 resolutions and letters of support; 4 letters of opposition; supporting research and opposition arguments.

Staff contact: Katie Shows, 2028



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
 Bill Version: HCR 5  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/3/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Dept of Environmental Conservation  
 Title: Fluoridation RDU: Environmental Health  
 Component: Drinking Water  
 Sponsor: Representative Paul Seaton  
 Requester: House Community & Regional Affairs Committee Component No.: 2066

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2007    | FY 2008    | FY 2009    | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services      | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Travel                 | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Contractual            | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Supplies               | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Equipment              | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Land & Structures      | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Grants & Claims        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Miscellaneous          | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

|   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts                   | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1003 GF Match                           | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1004 GF                                 | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts                | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health                   | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Part-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Temporary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This House Concurrent Resolution will have no fiscal impact on DEC.

Prepared by: Kristin Ryan, Director Phone (907) 269-7644  
 Division: Environmental Conservation Date/Time 2/1/06 8:00 AM  
 Approved by: Kurt Fredriksson Date 2/1/2006  
 Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 2  
 Bill Version: HCR 5  
 (H) Publish Date: 2/3/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Dept of Environmental Conservation  
 Title: Fluoridation RDU: Division of Water  
 Component: Water Quality  
 Sponsor: Representative Paul Seaton  
 Requester: House Community and Regional Affairs Committee Component No.: 2062

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2007    | FY 2008    | FY 2009    | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Travel                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Contractual            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Supplies               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Equipment              |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Land & Structures      |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Grants & Claims        |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Miscellaneous          |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

|   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1003 GF Match                           |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1004 GF                                 |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts                |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health                   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) |            |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0  
 Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

|           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Full-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Part-time |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporary |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution has no effect on Division of Water resources.

Prepared by: Lynn J. Tomich Kent Phone 269-6281  
 Division: Water Date/Time 2/1/06 2:30pm  
 Approved by: Kurt Fredriksson Date 2/1/2006  
 Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

*Chair*  
STATE AFFAIRS

*Member*  
RESOURCES

*Member*  
HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

*Member*  
WAYS AND MEANS



**REPRESENTATIVE PAUL SEATON**  
House District 35

*Session:*  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone 907-465-2689  
Fax 907-465-3472  
1-800-665-2689  
Rep.Paul.Seaton@legis.state.ak.us

*Interim:*  
345 W. Sterling Highway  
Suite 102B  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
Phone 907-235-2921  
Fax 907-235-4008

## Sponsor Statement HCR 5

HCR 5 encourages Alaskan communities to incorporate fluoride in their public water systems.

Fluoridated water has been shown to dramatically reduce dental carries, especially in children. Fluoride is one of the most efficient ways of providing cost-effective preventative dental health care. Every dollar spent on fluoridation saves \$37 in future dental expenses. Currently, all cities in Alaska with a population exceeding 30,000 have access to fluoridated water. The benefits of fluoridated water should be extended to all Alaskans.

HCR 5 requests that all new community water systems be engineered with the capacity for incorporating fluoride.

Tooth decay is a serious problem in Alaska, particularly in rural areas where access to dentists is not easily available. Poor dental health also puts a major burden upon Medicaid/Medicare programs.

Fluoridating community water systems is an investment in Alaska's public health that would provide returns both in dental health and to the pocketbook. HCR 5 makes it clear that the state supports communities in taking this step to improve the dental health of their residents.

Last updated on: 1/23/06  
Bill version: 24-LS032/Y



# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Fiscal Note Number: 1  
Bill Version: HCR 5  
(H) Publish Date: 2/3/06

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected: Dept of Environmental Conservation  
Title: Fluoridation RDU: Environmental Health  
Component: Drinking Water  
Sponsor: Representative Paul Seaton  
Requester: House Community & Regional Affairs Committee Component No. 2066

**Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)**

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | FY 2007    | FY 2008    | FY 2009    | FY 2010    | FY 2011    | FY 2012    |
|------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Personal Services      | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Travel                 | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Contractual            | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Supplies               | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Equipment              | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Land & Structures      | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Grants & Claims        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Miscellaneous          | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL OPERATING</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

|                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|                               |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|

**FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)**

|   |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts                   | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1003 GF Match                           | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1004 GF                                 | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts                | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health                   | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate) | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                            | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal:

**POSITIONS**

|           |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Part-time | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Temporary | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This House Concurrent Resolution will have no fiscal impact on DEC.

Prepared by: Kristin Ryan, Director Phone (907) 269-7644  
Division: Environmental Conservation Date/Time 2/1/06 8:00 AM  
Approved by: Kurt Fredriksson Date 2/1/2006  
Agency: Department of Environmental Conservation

**Support for HCR 5 and community water fluoridation from organizations/individuals included in your packet:**

- Resolution, Oral Health America
- Resolution, Alaska State Medical Association
- Resolution, Alaska Public Health Association
- Resolution, Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association
- Resolution, Alaska Dental Society
- Resolution, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Resolution, Alaska Nurses Association
- Resolution, City of Port Lions
- Resolution, Bristol Bay Health Corporation
- Resolution, Alaska Primary Care Association
- Compendium, list of National and International organizations that Recognize the Public Health Benefits of Community Water Fluoridation
- Letter, Troy Ritter
- Letter, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Letter, Community Health Services SE Alaska Regional Health Consortium
- Letter, Alaska Environmental Health Association
- Letter, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
- Letters of support from 7 Alaska dentists
- Letter, Kenai Kodiak Chapter of the Alaska Dental Society
- Letter, Alaska Area Native Health Service, Dept. of Health and Social Services, USA
- Letter, Alaska Dental Society
- Letter, Rural Dentist
- Letter, South Peninsula Hospital

**Opposition to HCR 5**

- Letters, three individuals
- Letter, dentist

**ORAL HEALTH AMERICA  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, dental tooth decay is recognized as a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease found in children (1); and

**WHEREAS**, fluoride is a naturally occurring element, and the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most safe and effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime (2); and

**WHEREAS**, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the average yearly cost for a community to fluoridate its water is estimated at an average cost of \$0.50, with a range of \$0.12 - \$5.41 per person, depending mostly on the size of the community and labor costs (2); and

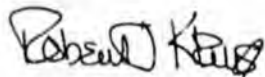
**WHEREAS**, the lifetime average cost per person represents less than one third of the charge for one dental restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by over 90 professional health organizations including Oral Health America (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (3) and 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of water fluoridation in the United States;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Oral Health America recognizes the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay, and encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies to levels optimal to prevent tooth decay and promote optimal oral health.

**DONE AND DATED** this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the year 2005 .



President and CEO, Oral Health America

**REFERENCES:**

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, October 2000.
- (2) American Dental Association, "Fluoridation Facts", 1999.
- (3) USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries", *MMWR*, 48(41), pp. 933-940, October 22, 1999



# ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

437 Laurel Street • Suite 1 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 562-2662



*Public Health*

ADOPTED AS AMENDED BY THE ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN VALDEZ, ALASKA JUNE 11, 1984

RESOLUTION NO. 84 - 5

SUBJECT: *ENCOURAGING* PROMOTION OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO FLUORIDATION IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, dental caries is one of the most prevalent public health problems of Alaskans<sup>1</sup>, and

WHEREAS, health care expenditures for restoration of caries are very large, and

WHEREAS, fluoridation of public water supplies will reduce the incidence of caries by 50% on a reliable, safe and well-documented basis<sup>1-2</sup>; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Medical Association calls for a statewide effort by appropriate State and federal agencies to encourage all Alaskan communities with public water systems implement central water fluoridation; and, for communities without public water systems, to assure community access to fluoridation techniques such as school-based fluoridation programs and fluoride drops; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Medical Association encourages the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and Environmental Conservation to budget for and implement this plan.

1. State Health Plan for Alaska 5, Statewide Health Coordinating Council and Division of Planning, Policy, and Program Evaluation, DHSS, January, 1984.
2. A Two-Part Report on Fluoridation, Consumer Reports, July-August 1978 Consumers Union of United States, Inc., Mount Vernon, NY.

DISTRIBUTION: Dental Assoc.  
DHSS  
Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Governor

ALASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Resolution No. 12-71

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY  
June 11, 1971

SUBJECT: *favoring* Fluoridation of water

*Public Health*

SUBMITTED BY: Legislative Committee, at request of  
Alaska Dental Society

RESOLVED, that the Alaska State Medical Association favors fluoridation of public water supplies wherever water does not naturally contain fluoride sufficient to prevent tooth decay.





**ALASKA STATE DENTAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, dental tooth decay is recognized as a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease found in children (1); and

**WHEREAS**, fluoride is a naturally occurring element, and the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most safe and effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime (2); and

**WHEREAS**, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the average yearly cost for a community to fluoridate its water is estimated at an average cost of \$0.50, with a range of \$0.51 - \$5.41 per person, depending mostly on the size of the community and labor costs (2); and <sup>12</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the lifetime average cost per person represents less than one third of the charge for one dental restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by over 90 professional health organizations including the American Dental Hygiene Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (3) and 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of water fluoridation in the United States;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska State Dental Hygiene Association recognizes the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay, and encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies to levels optimal to prevent tooth decay and promote optimal oral health.

**DONE AND DATED** this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, in the year 2004.

Signed by the President for the Board of Directors and approved by the membership.

Royann Royer RDH MPH, President ASDHA

**REFERENCES:**

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, October 2000.
- (2) American Dental Association, "Fluoridation Facts", 1999.
- (3) USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries", *MMWR*, 48(41), pp. 933-940, October 22, 1999



**Alaska Dental Society, Inc.**

9170 Jewel Lake Road, Suite 203  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502-5390  
(907) 563-3003 • FAX: 563-3009  
akdental@alaska.net

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION TO IMPROVE ORAL HEALTH**

**WHEREAS**, dental tooth decay is recognized as a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease found in children (1); and

**WHEREAS**, fluoride is a naturally occurring element, and the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most safe and effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime (2); and

**WHEREAS**, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the average yearly cost for a community to fluoridate its water is estimated at an average cost of \$0.50, with a range of \$0.12 - \$5.41 per person, depending mostly on the size of the community and labor costs (2); and

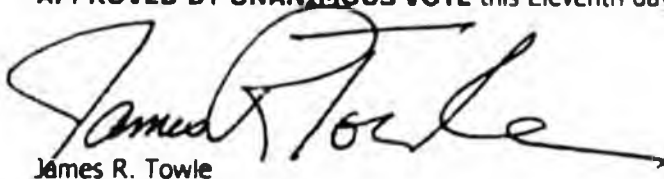
**WHEREAS**, the lifetime average cost per person represents less than one third of the charge for one dental restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by over 90 professional health organizations including the American Dental Association (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements during the 20th century (3) and 2005 marks the 60th anniversary of water fluoridation in the United States;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska Dental Society recognizes the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay, and encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies to levels optimal to prevent tooth decay and promote optimal oral health.

**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE** this Eleventh day of December, in the year 2004

  
James R. Towle  
Executive Director

**REFERENCES:**

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, October 2000.
- (2) American Dental Association, "Fluoridation Facts", 1999.
- (3) USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries", *MMWR*, 48(41), pp. 933-940, October 22, 1999

January 19, 2006

Tom Anderson, Representative  
Alaska House of Representatives  
State Capital, Room 408  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Anderson:

I am writing in support of House Concurrent Resolution 5 (HCR 5), Support for Community Water Fluoridation. As a father, public health professional and district 19 constituent, I feel that passage of HCR 5 would improve the health status of Alaskans. Most importantly, HCR 5 would not require communities to fluoridate their community water supply, but would increase opportunities for cooperation among out state's many public health entities.

As you may know, water fluoridation was recently recognized by the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention as *One of the Ten Greatest Public Health Achievements in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. Over sixty years of scientific research has proven water fluoridation to be both safe and effective. I hope you will support HCR 5. Please call me at (907) 332-0289 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Troy L. Ritter

cc: Representative Paul Seaton, HCR 5 Sponsor



**Alaska Primary Care Association, Inc.  
903 West Northern Lights, Suite 200  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Phone: (907) 929-2722  
Fax: (907) 929-2734**

**Alaska Primary Care Association  
Board of Directors**

**RESOLUTION 2006-03**

**Title: Support of Community Water Fluoridation to Improve Oral Health (HCR 5)**

**WHEREAS**, dental tooth decay is recognized as a chronic disease, and the most common chronic disease found in children (1); and

**WHEREAS**, fluoride is a naturally occurring element, and the fluoride content of community water supplies is the single most safe and effective public health measure to prevent tooth decay and to improve oral health for a lifetime (2); and

**WHEREAS**, community water fluoridation is a public health measure that benefits individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially those without access to regular dental care; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual cost for a U.S. community to fluoridate its water is estimated to range from approximately \$0.50 per person in large communities to approximately \$3.00 per person in small communities, depending on the type of fluoride compound used, its costs of transportation and storage, and the equipment used to add and monitor fluoride additives (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the lifetime average cost per person represents less than one third of the charge for one dental restoration; and

**WHEREAS**, fluoridation of community water supplies is supported by over 90 professional health organizations (2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named water fluoridation as one of the ten greatest public health achievements during the 20<sup>th</sup> century (3) and 2005 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of water fluoridation in the United States;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alaska Primary Care Association recognizes the public health benefits of community water fluoridation for preventing dental decay; encourages Alaska communities to fluoridate water supplies to levels optimal to prevent tooth decay and promote optimal oral health; and supports legitimate and appropriate efforts necessary by its staff

and members to ensure the passage of HCR 5 Fluoridation before the Alaska State Legislature, Second Session.

SUBMITTED BY: Shelley Hughes, APCA Policy Analyst

DATE: February 2, 2006

DONE AND DATED this 3 day of February, in the year 2006.

SIGNED BY



Joan Fisher, APCA Board President

References:

- (1) U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General, October 2000."
- (2) American Dental Association, "Fluoridation Facts", 2005
- (3) USDHHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Achievements in Public Health, 1900-1999: Fluoridation of Drinking Water to Prevent Dental Caries", MMWR, 48(41), pp. 933-940, October 22, 1999