



H.Res. 762 – Supporting the goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 762 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) on October 22, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor but was never considered.

H.Res. 762 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on October 22, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 762 recognizes that bullying of school-aged children is a national concern and that bullying is unhealthy for our families and communities.

H.Res. 762 commends national and community organizations, schools, parents, recreation programs, and religious institutions for their efforts to promote greater public awareness about bullying and prevention activities.

It also supports the goals of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week.

BACKGROUND

Bullying can take many forms, including hitting or punching; teasing or name-calling; intimidating through gestures or social exclusion; and sending insulting, threatening, or offensive messages or images via e-mail, text, telephone, or other electronic means.

According to the Department of Education, “most studies indicate that approximately 15 percent to 20 percent of students will experience bullying at some point from kindergarten through high school graduation”.

School-aged children who are bullied are more likely than other children to be depressed, lonely, or anxious. They also have been shown to have low self-esteem, increased absence from school, and more physical complaints, such as headaches and stomachaches. They are also more likely than non-bullied peers to think about suicide.

The children that are bullies are more likely to get into frequent fights, be injured in a fight, vandalize or steal property, drink alcohol, smoke, be truant from school, drop out of school, or carry a weapon.

75 percent of school shooting incidents have been linked to harassment and bullying, including the fatal shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado, Santana High School in California, and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech).

National Bullying Prevention Awareness Week is October 21 through October 27.

STAFF CONTACT

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