

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 159

BY REPRESENTATIVE SMITH

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana School Boards Association to develop and implement a training program for school board members on harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students to be conducted at its annual conference or in special meetings throughout the state.

WHEREAS, as stated in the Constitution of Louisiana, it is the goal of the public educational system to provide learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence in order that every individual may be afforded an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential; and

WHEREAS, current law requires most city, parish, and other local public school boards to adopt a student code of conduct, which shall incorporate a policy prohibiting the harassment, intimidation, and bullying of a student by another student; and

WHEREAS, in spite of current law, there are students who suffer harassment, intimidation, and bullying by other students; and

WHEREAS, student safety should be the utmost priority at both the state and local levels; and

WHEREAS, training for school board members relative to bullying is one way to raise awareness and might help to alleviate the epidemic of bullying in public schools; and

WHEREAS, this training should include but need not be limited to content relative to suicide prevention, including the relationship between suicide risk factors and harassment, intimidation, and bullying; and

WHEREAS, this training should be based on information supported by peer-reviewed research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and recognized as accurate by leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant

experience, such as the American Psychological Association, Louisiana School Counselors Association, and the state Department of Health and Hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in order for the public education system to meet its constitutional goal of providing learning environments and experiences at all stages of human development that are humane, just, and designed to promote excellence, it is imperative that every possible precaution be taken to ensure the protection of Louisiana's students from harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana School Boards Association to develop and implement a training program for school board members on harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students to be conducted at its annual conference or in special meetings throughout the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana School Boards Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES