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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 450 Session of  
2017

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INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, DONATUCCI, HENNESSEY, TAYLOR, QUIGLEY,  
VAZQUEZ, TOOHL, BOBACK, MURT, CALTAGIRONE, STURLA, READSHAW,  
DUSH, SONNEY, SOLOMON, SAINATO, RABB, FRANKEL, WHEATLEY,  
BIZZARRO, ROZZI, SCHLOSSBERG, WATSON, LONGIETTI, DIGIROLAMO,  
BULLOCK, V. BROWN, McNEILL, ROEBUCK, GOODMAN, MILLARD, KIM,  
KAVULICH, HILL-EVANS, MARSICO, FREEMAN, JAMES, WARREN,  
D. COSTA, PASHINSKI AND DEASY, AUGUST 18, 2017

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
AUGUST 18, 2017

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of October 2017 as "Bullying Prevention  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians  
3 recognize bullying, stop bullying and gain the tools needed  
4 to appropriately deal with situations involving bullies.

5 WHEREAS, A recent United States Department of Health and  
6 Human Services study shows that 28% of students in grades 6  
7 through 12 and 20% of students in grades 9 through 12 have  
8 experienced bullying; and

9 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Justice states that  
10 37% of all students do not feel safe at school; and

11 WHEREAS, Whether verbal, physical or via the Internet,  
12 bullying can severely affect a student's self-image, social  
13 interactions and school performance and can lead to insecurity,  
14 lack of self-esteem and depression in adulthood; and

15 WHEREAS, School dropout rates and absences among victims of  
16 bullying are much higher than among other students; and

1       WHEREAS, Children who have been identified as bullies by 8  
2 years of age are 6 times more likely to have a criminal  
3 conviction by 24 years of age; and

4       WHEREAS, Children who are bullies may continue to be bullies  
5 as adults and are more prone to abuse a child or a spouse; and

6       WHEREAS, There are three interrelated reasons why students  
7 bully: a strong need for power and dominance, satisfaction in  
8 causing injury to or suffering among other students and  
9 attention seeking; and

10       WHEREAS, Bullying is much more complex and varied than the  
11 presumed stereotype; and

12       WHEREAS, Bullying by both girls and boys is not easily  
13 defined as solely physical aggression; and

14       WHEREAS, Bullying can occur quietly and covertly, through  
15 gossip or the Internet, causing emotional damage; and

16       WHEREAS, Bullying, overt bullying and covert bullying  
17 includes derogatory comments, name-calling, social exclusion or  
18 isolation, hitting, kicking, shoving or spitting, lying,  
19 creating rumors, taking money, taking or damaging property,  
20 threatening or forcing others to perform acts and targeting  
21 individuals based on race, sex or gender; and

22       WHEREAS, An act is classified as bullying when the behavior  
23 hurts or harms another person physically or emotionally and the  
24 behavior is virtually impossible to stop; and

25       WHEREAS, Bullying includes creating an imbalance of power,  
26 with a bully having more power physically, socially or  
27 emotionally over a victim; and

28       WHEREAS, Depression, low self-esteem, health issues, poor  
29 grades and suicidal thoughts are consequences of bullying; and

30       WHEREAS, It may be hard to recognize the difference between

1 playful teasing and bullying, but they are not the same; and

2 WHEREAS, Teasing by two or more friends of equal power seems  
3 enjoyable for everyone and never involves physical or emotional  
4 abuse; and

5 WHEREAS, Bullying impacts students targeted by the behavior,  
6 students who witness the behavior and students who engage in the  
7 behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, When bullying continues and a school does not act,  
9 the entire school climate is affected in many ways; and

10 WHEREAS, An environment of fear and disrespect can develop;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Students may have learning difficulties or feel  
13 insecure; and

14 WHEREAS, Students may dislike school, perceiving that  
15 teachers and staff have little control and do not care about  
16 them; and

17 WHEREAS, There is no Federal law that specifically applies to  
18 bullying, but schools are legally obligated to address certain  
19 bullying as harassment; and

20 WHEREAS, The Office for Civil Rights in the United States  
21 Department of Education and the United States Department of  
22 Justice have stated that bullying is considered to be harassment  
23 when based on a student's race, color, national origin, sex,  
24 disability or religion; and

25 WHEREAS, Bullying can last well into adulthood, when abuse is  
26 most likely to occur in the workplace; and

27 WHEREAS, According to a 2014 workplace survey, more than 37  
28 million workers in the United States have experienced some form  
29 of workplace bullying and 28.7 million workers have witnessed  
30 bullying; and

1       WHEREAS, Many adults find themselves emotionally tormented by  
2 fellow employees, neighbors, aggressive friends and spouses; and

3       WHEREAS, Harassing behaviors include unwelcome conduct such  
4 as name-calling, epithets, slurs, graphic or written statements  
5 or threats and assault or other acts that are physically  
6 threatening, harmful or humiliating; and

7       WHEREAS, "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month" is a monthlong  
8 effort that encourages everyone to take an active role in the  
9 bullying prevention movement; therefore be it

10       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
11 month of October 2017 as "Bullying Prevention Awareness Month"  
12 in Pennsylvania to help Pennsylvanians recognize bullying, stop  
13 bullying and gain the tools needed to appropriately deal with  
14 situations involving bullies.