

in their school years and at least 10 percent are bullied on a regular basis; and

Whereas, Children who are bullied can experience real suffering that can interfere with their school performance as well as their social and emotional development; and

Whereas, Additionally, children who are being bullied in school are more likely to miss school, with an estimated 160,000 students deemed absent daily nationwide due to bullying; and

Whereas, Bullying behaviors can be physical or verbal and in recent years are more likely to include the use of the internet and cell phones; and

Whereas, Research suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) students are particularly vulnerable to bullying and harassment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression; and

Whereas, Since September of 2010, at least six students nationwide have taken their own lives as a result of antigay bullying; and

Whereas, Children need and deserve to be safe from harm, especially in school, and we as a society need to stop looking the other way when such abhorrent behavior is taking place; and

Whereas, Severe bullying must be identified for what it is and denounced for the harm it causes rather than brushed off as a harmless rite of passage; and

Whereas, Schools must establish clearly defined boundaries, and teachers and administrators must know they are responsible for intervening when acts of bullying take place; and

Whereas, In March 2011, S.506, also known as the Safe Schools Improvement Act of 2011, was introduced in the United States Senate and in April 2011, the House version, H.R 1648, was introduced in the House of Representatives; and

Whereas, The Safe Schools Improvement Act would amend the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (part of the No Child Left Behind Act) to require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; and

Whereas, The Safe Schools Improvement Act would also require that states report data on bullying and harassment to the United States Department of Education; and

Whereas, Bullying, harassment and discrimination have no place in schools, as such behavior deprives children of the education they are entitled to and violates their rights as human beings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States Congress to pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R. 1648/S.506).

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6/7/11