RESOLUTION
JULY 2009

TITLE:  BULLYING PREVENTION FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, 30% of students in grades 6 through 10 report moderate or frequent involvement in bullying, 13% as perpetrators, 10.6% as victims, and 6.3% as both.¹

WHEREAS, about 32% of all teenagers who use the internet say they have been targets of a range of annoying and potentially menacing online activities – such as receiving threatening messages; having their private emails or text messages forwarded without consent; having an embarrassing picture posted without permission; or having rumors about them spread online¹⁰

WHEREAS, 18% of students in grades 6 through 8 report being cyber bullied at least once in the last couple of months; and 6% said it happened to them two or more times.⁸

WHEREAS, girls are more likely than boys to say that they have ever experienced cyber-bullying – 38% of on line girls report being bullied, compared with 26% of online boys.⁸,¹⁰

WHEREAS, perpetrators of bullying are more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors such as drinking alcohol and smoking.¹

WHEREAS, 60% of those characterized as perpetrators in grades 6 through 9 receive at least 1 criminal conviction by age 24.²

WHEREAS, victims of bullying are more likely to suffer long-term negative psychosocial consequences including depression, lower self-esteem, and worsening school attendance and academic performance.³,⁴,⁵

WHEREAS, attackers in school violence such as shootings are more than twice as likely to report being bullied.⁶

WHEREAS, parents and professionals repeatedly fail to identify children and adolescents at risk of bullying.⁷
WHEREAS, school-based interventions implemented in Europe show reductions in bullying of up to 50%.

WHEREAS, as of this writing, 39 states have passed bullying prevention laws.

Therefore, be it resolved that Safe States Alliance supports:

- Collaboration of its state, territorial, and local members with all of the institutions that must address prevention and respond to the short- and long-term consequences of bullying including: law enforcement; mental health agencies; departments of education and juvenile justice; state and county medical associations; emergency medical services; public health programs; schools; faith-based organizations; and, parent and youth organizations;
- Dissemination and utilization of materials that will enable parents, teachers, students; schools, and communities to address bullying prevention in a comprehensive manner including education, training and policy development; and to achieve social change; and,
- Research on bullying behaviors and the development and evaluation of bullying prevention interventions and programming.


2 Olweus D. Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell; 1993.


10 From Pew http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP%20Cyberbullying%20Memo.pdf

Revised June 22, 2010

Approved by the Safe States Membership on 7/15/09.