

Summary of Bullying Written Testimony Hearings on 11/17

- May 13, 2009 – The Anti-defamation league submitted a letter indicating support for H483 which is based in part of the ADL model statute
- Nov. 5, 2009 – The American Medical Association submitted a letter indicating support for H483 based generally on its attempt to reduce harassment and bullying
- Nov. 13, 2009 – Citizen writing in support of Safe Zones and H364 – with the inclusion of 12 letters by elementary school students in support of Rep. Cabral’s bill
- Nov. 16, 2009 – Minority Leader submitted letter supporting H440 which he sponsored
- Nov. 16, 2009 – New Bedford School Committee submitted letter advocating the consideration of the “Safe Zones” program – which identifies with a yellow sticker a location where children who have been harassed can come and seek help – in any bill that is adopted
 - Letter was accompanied by 5 other letters from citizens supporting the inclusion of Safe Zones in a final bill
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Rep Erlich submitted a letter indicating her support for H483 based in part on the shooting at the holocaust memorial museum in June of 09
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Suffolk DA submitted letter supporting H483 as the most “common-sense and comprehensive anti-bullying legislation yet proposed,” especially as it addresses cyberbullying.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Rep. Cabral submitted letter supporting his bill H364 as it requires reporting of bullying to principals and superintendants, reporting by those officials to law enforcement based on the gravity of the incident, and counseling for bullies and penalties against those who fail to report.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Massachusetts Family Institute submitted letter supporting S209, H428 & H524 because the other bills submitted had vague language, did not address the core issue of lack of respect , required that incidents be reported to law enforcement, included liability for bullying groups – since bullying should be treaded on an individual basis
 - There is a fear that the other bills would prohibit “motivational” intimidations such as by coaches and teachers because it might be seen as bullying
 - In many of the other bills presented it is too easy for a student to be reported as a criminal
- Nov. 17, 2009 – MA commission on GBLT Youth submitted letter supporting enumeration of the categories which define bullying – i.e. a statement that bullying is

based on “race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual orientation etc. – because those students likely to be harassed are least likely to be protected under a general law

- Additionally advocated for the annual collection of data on bullying
- Finally asked for sanctions against schools or districts that fail to comply
- Nov. 17, 2009 – 236 signatures from Weymouth HS requesting “strong anti-bullying legislation”
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Citizen submitted letter supporting H483 and describing the harassment he suffered as a gay student in the 1950s
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Microsoft submitted letter supporting H483 and requesting that any final bill ensure that cyberbullying is included
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Joint Committee on Education submitted letter arguing against any anti-bullying bills because they are a means by which the “GLBT community forward their agenda and marginalize any opposing parental or community values”
 - Additionally the letter argues that the numbers on bullying are artificially inflated by a gay conspiracy
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Citizen submitted letter arguing that anti-bullying laws “endorse homosexuality.”
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Greater Boston Civil Rights Organization and the Jewish Alliance for Law & Social Action submitted letter supporting H483 as a matter of social justice.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Rep. Canavan submitted letter supporting H483 and S242.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Family Equality Council submitted letter supporting H483 because it will prevent emotional harm and the fear of going to school and thus a loss of education that bullying creates.
 - Additionally letter shared a story of a child who was harassed and beaten because her mother was a lesbian.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Sen. Donnelly submitted letter supporting H483.
- Nov. 17, 2009 – Local Rabbi submitted letter supporting H483 including 13 letters from 9th graders who have experienced bullying.
- Jan.26, 2010 – response to Sen. O’Leary’s call for support for anti-bullying legislation indicating support for Senate Bill and a request for including the National Health Education Standards in the bill.

- Jan.26, 2010 – Sen. Baddour asking the committee to favorably report out S209