

Board Members

 President
 Rita Watson

 President Elect
 Joyce Fiansburg

 Vice President
 Michelle Stosich

 Secretary
 Laurie Thatcher

 Treasurer
 Mary Jane Fox

 Walla Walla
 College Student
 Representative
 Vacant

 University of
 Montana Student
 Representative
 Forest Henning

 Eastern Region
 Representative
 Sandra Lippy

 North Central Region
 Representative
 Joe Boyle

 South Central Region
 Representative
 Taryn Kovac

 Southwestern Region
 Representative
 Janice Lundeen

 Northwestern Region
 Representative
 Janeice Hamilton

 Nominations &
 Leadership Chair
 Nancy Smith

 Social Policy and
 Action
 Vicki DeBoer

 Executive Director
 Colleen Murphy

Support SB 198, "Safe Schools" by Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R-Glasgow)

The Montana Senate passed **SB 198** by **Sen. Sam Kitzenberg (R-Glasgow)** which would require school districts to adopt anti-harassment. The bill covers bullying motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation, gender & disability, or any other identifying characteristic (acne, size, weight).

Next the Safe Schools bill will go to the House Education Committee.

ACTION NEEDED:

Contact Representatives on the Educational Committee (committee members found on back) and ask them to **vote YES on SB 198 to require anti-bullying policies in our schools.**

Every student in Montana deserves a quality education, which includes a harassment-free leaning environment.

- **Serious bullying can be deadly.** Persistent intimidation and hostility can lead to severe emotional problems, physical violence and crime. This is not about teasing. The State prohibits harassment in the workplace, and by doing so, ensure productivity; bullying in schools should be addressed as well.
- **Districts can create their own anti-bullying policies.** This bill provides a uniform definition of bullying. If the State can mandate that all students must attend school, the State should also expect that all students be safe in school.

The School Boards Association opposed the bill saying that policies were in place. Both the School Boards Association and Senator Kitzenberg polled school districts & found that only half the schools had anti-harassment policies that went beyond sexual harassment. The policies ranged from those with specific language to language so vague that they provide little direction to students or teachers. Less than 10% of schools had a very good policy.

Members of the House Educational Committee

Galvin-Halcro, Kathleen (D) – Chairperson	HD 26	Great Falls
Andersen, Joan (R) – Vice Chairman	HD 59	Fromberg
Branae, Gary (D) - V ice Chairman	HD 54	Billings
Butcher, Ed (R)	HD 29	Winifred
Campbell, Margaret (D)	HD 31	Popular
Dowell, Tim (D)	HD 8	Kalispell
Grinde, Wanda (D)	HD 48	Billings
Koopman, Roger (R)	HD 70	Bozeman
Lake, Bob (R)	HD 88	Hamilton
McKenney, Joe (R)	HD 18	Great Falls
Raser, Holly (D)	HD 98	Missoula
Sales, Scott (R)	HD 68	Bozeman
Sonju, Jon (R)	HD 7	Kalispell
Villa, Dan (D)	HD 86	Anaconda
Ward, John (R)	HD 84	Helena
Windham, Jeanne (D)	HD 12	Polson