

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 4

DATE 1-17-05

BILL NO. SB-198

14 January, 2005

Dear Chairman Ryan and members of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee:

All students have the right to an education and that won't happen if they are being intimidated or harassed in school.

As a teacher, it's important that I create a "safe" learning environment in my classroom; if not, learning will not occur since students simply "shut-down or tune-out" if they are concerned about being harassed.

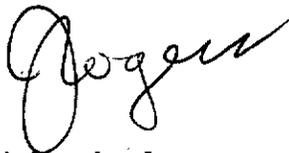
In no small measure, school policies that clearly prohibit bullying behavior enable me to establish that classroom atmosphere where all my students can learn. For one, students know what is acceptable and what is not. This helps to prevent harassment from taking place to begin with. And when intimidation does happen, it gives me (and my colleagues) a useful tool to put a stop to it. And if the bully wants to argue, all I have to do is point out the policy or send them to the administrators that can implement the district's policy.

Plainly put, strong and clear school district anti-harassment policies help teachers provide safe learning environments where all students can learn and achieve their greatest potential.

Please support Senate Bill 198 sponsored by Senator Kitzenberg.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Rogers



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