

SB 141

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 4

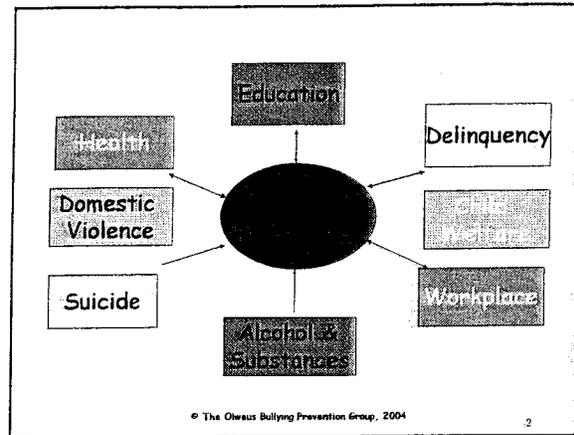
DATE 1-24-11

BILL NO. SB 141

# BULLYING BEHAVIOR... Prevention and Intervention

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1



## Olweus Definition of Bullying:

“Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself.”

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, 2010

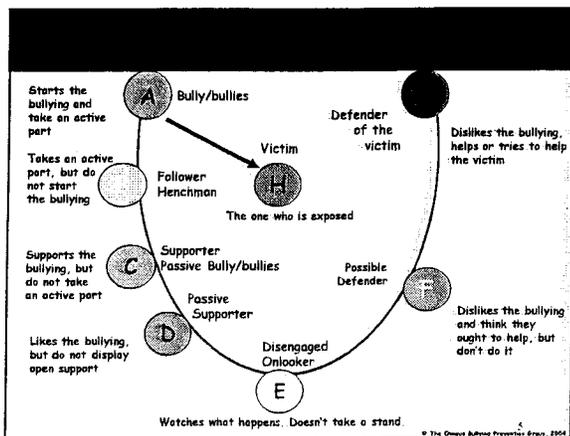
3

## Three Key Components of Bullying Behavior

1. Involves an aggressive behavior
2. Typically involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time
3. Imbalance of power or strength

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4



## Bullying Prevention Promotes Positive Behavior. It is:

- A Safe School Climate Issue
- Civil Rights Issue
- A Physical AND Mental Health Issue
- A Drop-out Prevention Issue
- An Academic Achievement Issue
- A Crime Prevention Issue
- A Suicide Prevention Issue

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6

## Effects of Being Bullied



- Lower self-esteem
- Depression & anxiety
- Absenteeism & lowered school achievement
- Thoughts of suicide
- Illness

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7

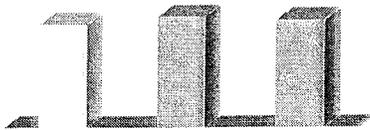
## Health Consequences of Bullying (Fekkes et al., 2004)

	<u>Bullied</u>	<u>Not bullied</u>
Headache	16%	6%
Sleep problems	42%	23%
Abdominal pain	17%	9%
Feeling tense	20%	9%
Anxiety	28%	10%
Feeling unhappy	23%	5%
Depression scale		
moderate indication	49%	16%
strong indication	16%	2%

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8

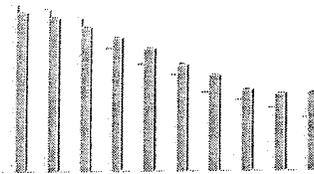
## Being Bullied 2-3 x/month or more



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9

## Being Bullied: Grade Trends 2-3 times/month or more



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10

## National Estimates

(Finkelhor et al., 2005)

*Study of 2,030 children and youth age 2-17*

- 13.7 million children are physically bullied
- 15.7 million children are teased or emotionally bullied
- 2.4 million are sexually harassed

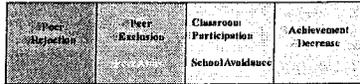
11

## Impact of Bullying on School Engagement & Student Academic Achievement

- Bullied children are more likely to:
  - Want to avoid going to school (Kochenderfer & Ladd, 1996)
  - Have higher absenteeism rates (Rigby, 1996; Smith et al, 2004)
  - Say they dislike school; receive lower grades (Eisenberg et al., 2003)

12

### Buhs et al. (2006) Study of Peer Exclusion & Victimization and Academic Achievement



Kindergarten ————— 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Early peer rejection in kindergarten is associated with peer exclusion and peer abuse in grades K-5.
- Peer exclusion leads to a decrease in classroom participation, which in turn leads to a decrease in achievement
- Peer abuse leads to an increase in school avoidance (but not directly to decreases in achievement)

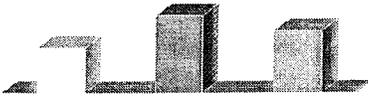
13

### Concerns About Children Who Bully

- More likely to:
  - Get into frequent fights
  - Be injured in a fight
  - Steal, vandalize property
  - Drink alcohol, smoke
  - Be truant, drop out of school
  - Report poorer academic achievement
  - Perceive a negative climate at school
  - Carry a weapon

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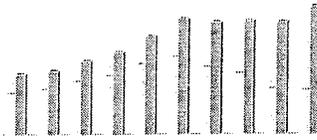
### Bullying Others 2-3x/month or more



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15

### Bullying Others: Grade Trends 2-3 times/month or more



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16

### Longitudinal Study of Children who Bullied Others (Olweus, 1993)

- 60% of boys who were bullies in middle school had at least one conviction by age 24.
- 40% had three or more convictions.
- Bullies were 4 times as likely as peers to have multiple convictions.

17

### Safe School Initiative Report (2002)

- U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Dept. of Education
- Studied 37 incidents of targeted school violence, involving 41 attackers (1974-2000)
  - 3/4 of attackers felt persecuted, bullied prior to the incident
  - 1/3 of attackers characterized as "loners"
  - 1/4 socialized with students who were disliked by most mainstream students
  - Many had considered suicide

18

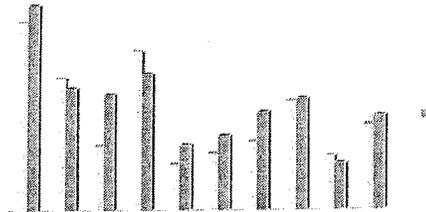
## Bullying & School Violence

- Students in grades 7-12 say revenge is the strongest motivation for school shootings- 86% said "other kids picking on them, making fun of them or bullying them" causes teenagers to turn to lethal violence in the schools. <sup>2</sup>

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19

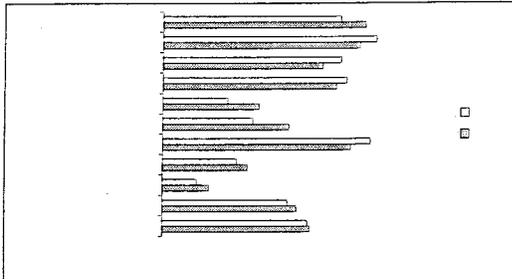
## How are Boys & Girls Bullied?



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20

## Where the Bullying Has Occurred (if bullied once or more)



21

## Effects of Bullying on Bystanders

- Bystanders may feel:
  - Afraid
  - Powerless to change the situation
  - Guilty for not acting
  - Diminished empathy for victims over time



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22

## Reporting of Bullying to School Staff

- Many do not report being bullied.
- Older children and boys are less likely to report victimization.
- Why don't children report?
  - 2/3 of victims felt that staff responded poorly
  - 6% believed that staff responded very well. (Hoover et al., 1992)

23

## Students who say teachers or other adults at school try to stop bullying (often or almost always)



24

## Common "Misdirections" in Bullying Prevention and Intervention

- Zero tolerance (student exclusion)
- Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
- Group treatment for children who bully
- Simple, short-term solutions

25

## What Works?

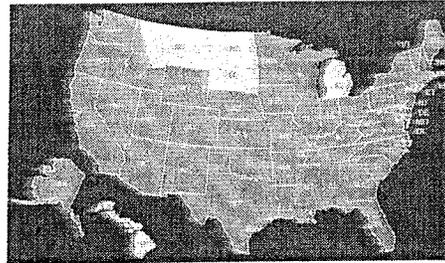
- What is required to reduce bullying in schools is nothing less than a change in the school climate and in norms for behavior.
- This requires a comprehensive, school-wide effort involving the entire school community

26

## Understanding Adult Bullying Behavior - Connecting to Illegal Adult Behavior

- Physical bullying = Assault
- Gender bullying = Sexual Harassment or Assault
- Intimidating for Gain = Extortion
- Rumors/ Lies = Defamation of Character
- Harming based on race, religion, sexual orientation = Civil Rights Violation
- Harming Disabled Persons = Disability Harassment
- Cyber Bullying = Harassment by Communication
- Sexting (images) = Child Pornography

## Anti-Bullying Legislation



■ States with Anti-Bullying Legislation (45)

□ States with No Anti-Bullying Legislation (5, DC)

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## Resources

### • Websites

[www.clemson.edu/olweus](http://www.clemson.edu/olweus)

[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)

[www.stopbullyingworld.com](http://www.stopbullyingworld.com)

[www.olweus.org](http://www.olweus.org)

29