



## **Testimony to the House Committee on Education House Bill 2222**

**February 12, 2013**

Chair Kelley and Members of the Committee:

I am Vicky Roper, Prevent Child Abuse Kansas Director for the Kansas Children's Service League. I appreciate this opportunity to provide information regarding HB 2222. The mission of the Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) is "to protect and promote the well-being of children." We are the Kansas chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

We are supportive of schools taking action to address bullying. Although bullying is generally a form of peer-to-peer child abuse, it can also include teacher-student bullying and student-teacher bullying. Bullying is a priority of Prevent Child Abuse America, our national organization, and a priority of our agency. The Kansas Children's Service League has implemented the BullySafe model with SuEllen Fried, a former member of our Board of Directors, in the Blue Valley, De Soto, Great Bend, Holcomb, Kaw Valley, Olathe and Wichita School Districts with great results.

KCSL currently contracts with the Kansas State Department of Education to operate the Bullying Prevention Hotline. Anyone who has questions about a bullying situation can call our 24-hour Parent and Youth Resource Line at 1-800-332-6378 or 1-800-CHILDREN. The Resource Line can also be contacted via text or email at [1800children@kcsl.org](mailto:1800children@kcsl.org). This anonymous helpline is staffed by trained professionals and volunteers who listen to each caller's concerns and seek to provide the caller with resources that can assist them. We strive to provide connections, empower people and transform our culture to one of kindness. The Parent and Youth Resource Line has the capabilities to communicate with all non-English speaking callers.

Bullying prevention information is on our website at <https://www.kcsl.org/BullyingPrevention.aspx> and on Facebook at [://www.facebook.com/#!/MakingKansasBullyFree](https://www.facebook.com/#!/MakingKansasBullyFree). In addition, KCSL provides an array of online learning opportunities for teachers on bullying issues.

We believe that KSA 72-8256, which was passed in 2006 and amended in 2007 to include cyberbullying, gave Kansas a good start towards addressing bullying behaviors in our public schools. However, school districts across the state have made varying degrees of progress in

implementing the current statute. We do think it is time to consider revising the statute to keep up with current best practices and to ensure that all Kansas schools are in compliance. Several bills have been introduced this session that would revise the existing statute. KCSL is supportive of legislation that would move Kansas statutes into closer compliance with nationwide standards and emerging best practice.

The United States Department of Education has identified 16 key components of state anti-bullying legislation. Kansas' statute currently only includes 5 of those components, as shown on the attached chart. Although Kansas covers three of the four basic definitional components and does require school districts to have a bullying policy, Kansas and Minnesota are the only two that do not cover any of the six key district policy components. Kansas also does not cover the important components of communication and transparency/monitoring; nor does it provide for legal remedies.

Although we believe increased accountability measures and reporting requirements could improve the success of bullying prevention in Kansas schools, we recognize that additional requirements will require additional effort. We defer to the Kansas State Department of Education to help you assess the reasonableness of any additional requirements new legislation might include.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information about HB 2222. I would be happy to stand for questions.

**Vicky Roper**

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*For Prevent Child Abuse Kansas updates follow PCA Kansas at [www.Twitter.com/PCAKansas](http://www.Twitter.com/PCAKansas).*

***Our Mission: To Protect and Promote the Well-Being of Children***

Exhibit 15. Extent of coverage of U.S. Department of Education-identified key components in state bullying legislation, by state (n=46)

State	Definitions				District policy review & development		District policy components						Additional components			TOTAL	
	Purpose	Scope	Prohibited behavior	Enumerated groups	District policy	District policy review	Definitions	Reporting	Investigations	Written records	Consequences	Mental health	Communications	Training/prevention	Transparency/monitoring		Legal remedies
Alabama	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		14
Alaska	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓		✓		✓		8
Arizona	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					10
Arkansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			14
California		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		12
Colorado		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓				8
Connecticut		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		12
Delaware	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		13
Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		15
Georgia	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓				9
Idaho	✓		✓		✓							✓	✓				5
Illinois	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		✓		10
Indiana	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓				8
Iowa	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
Kansas	✓	✓	✓		✓							✓	✓				5
Kentucky	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			9
Louisiana	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		11
Maine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			12
Maryland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
Massachusetts	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		13
Minnesota	✓				✓												2
Mississippi	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓					8
Missouri		✓	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓				7
Nebraska		✓	✓		✓						✓	✓					4
Nevada	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			12
New Hampshire	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	14
New Jersey	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	16
New Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				11
New York	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	13
North Carolina	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		13
North Dakota	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	13
Ohio	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	13
Oklahoma	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				10
Oregon *	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		14
Pennsylvania		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓				9
Rhode Island	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓		✓		9
South Carolina	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		11
Tennessee	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				11
Texas	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓				6
Utah	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓					✓	✓		✓		8
Vermont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			13
Virginia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		11
Washington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	15
West Virginia	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	14

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