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HB 64 – Keeping Kentucky's Kids Safe

HB 64 is an act relating to the safety, learning, and well-being of students. It will require

school districts to have plans, policies, and procedures dealing with measures for assisting students who are engaging in disruptive and disorderly behavior, including harassment, intimidation, or bullying of another student. It requires school districts to formulate a code of acceptable behavior and discipline that prohibits harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student and includes procedures for identifying, reporting, investigating, and responding to complaints, a strategy for protecting complainants from retaliation, a process for annually discussing the code and the consequences of violating the code with students and their parents or their legal guardians. It requires school districts to provide training on the district's acceptable code of behavior to school employees who have direct contact with students if funds exist for this purpose.

Sponsor and co-sponsors: M. Cherry, C. Belcher, L. Clark, J. Draud, M. Marzian, R. Rand, A. Simpson, K. Stein, T. Thompson, R. Weston.

HB 64 is now on the House floor awaiting a vote by your Representative.

Reasons for supporting HB 64

Kentuckians are asking for help in making schools safe. Educators, parents, teachers, and a host of others concerned about the safety of

SUPPORT HB 64

Vote **YES** for **HB 64**. Vote **NO** on all amendments not agreed to by the sponsor. This bill upholds the culture of life and reduces violence in our schools.

children have joined together and formed the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Those most knowledgeable about what happens in our schools are asking the General Assembly to help them protect children by passing **HB 64**.

Bullying triggers school violence. In two-thirds of the cases of school shootings, the Secret Service reports that the attacker had felt persecuted, bullied, threatened, attacked, or injured before the incident. Many had experienced longstanding and severe bullying and harassment, which some attackers describe as torment. (*The School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2000*)

Bullying causes severe harm to children. Research has found that bullied children experience a variety of problems that occur significantly less often in children who are not involved in bullying. For example, bully victims are more likely than nonvictims of bullying to have low self-esteem (Duncan, 1997; Olweus, 1994; Rigby & Slee, 1992; Slee & Rigby, 1993), low self-confidence (Perry et al., 1988), and poor self-worth (Boulton & Smith, 1994; Callaghan & Joseph, 1995; Neary & Joseph, 1994). They feel less happy (Duncan, 1997; Rigby & Slee, 1992) and more insecure (Olweus, 1994; Perry et al., 1988), incompetent (Neary & Joseph, 1994), and hypersensitive (Olweus, 1994). panicky, and nervous at school and having recurrent memories of the bullying to the point that their concentration is impaired (Sharp, 1995).