

THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (S1987-A) NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

What is it?

Dignity For All Students Act (S1987-A) is a NYS Anti-bullying bill that would safeguard students from hate crimes based on race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion, appearance, or perceived or actual sexual orientation, or gender expression.

Facts

Bureau of Justice Statistics and National Criminal Victimization Surveys show that in NYS in 2005

- Children under the age of 17 are found to have committed 30% of violent hate offenses and 40% of property related hate offenses.
- 55% of teens have been subjected to bias-motivated harassment or assault during the past year.

Not feeling safe in school has devastating effects on the lives and educational achievement of many of our young people.

It would provide:

Training for faculty and staff to address issues of harassment and discrimination
Classes for students to discouraging harassment

Reporting of incidents NYS Dept of Education

Call, visit, write or email your NYS Senator to support this bill. Find phone and addresses at www.nysenate.gov/senators. The Bill passed the Assembly last year.

AAUW involvement in harassment

AAUW NYS supported Dignity for All Students Act in early 2000's

AAUW has supported Hate Crimes Legislation

AAUW Biennial Action Priorities include "Freedom from violence and fear of violence in homes, schools, workplaces, and communities."

AAUW Reports about Harassment and its effect upon students, especially girls:

- *Hostile Hallways: The AAUW Survey on Sexual Harassment in American Schools* (1993).
- *Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing and Sexual Harassment in School* (2001)
- *Drawing the Line: Sexual Harassment on Campus* (2006)