



April 17, 2018

Re: HB4625 that relates to bullying, cyberbullying, and identity-based bullying in public schools

To the Members of the Youth Health and Safety Select Committee,

For various reasons the bullying of minority or other youth seen as other or different has become a huge problem in our Texas public schools. This covers the State for all practical purposes. We have seen incidents in many places, including:

- i. Woodsboro near Corpus Christi: <https://www.kristv.com/news/local-news/teens-indicted-on-charges-related-to-reported-attack-on-woodsboro-black-teen>
- ii. Lubbock and Slaton: <https://www.texasaft.org/uncategorized/idra-lubbock-naacp-challenge-racial-discrimination-in-slaton-isd-lubbock-cooper-isd/>
- iii. Brazoria County: <https://abc7amarillo.com/news/local/texas-students-facing-disciplinary-action-after-wearing-confederate-flag-clothing>
- iv. Southlake: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/mother-says-southlake-school-trying-to-sweep-severe-bullying-of-12-year-old-son-under-the-rug-134899781850>; and <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/viral-video-forced-wealthy-texas-suburb-confront-racism-silent-majority-n1255230>
- v. Grand Prairie: <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/grand-prairie-naacp-chapter-calls-out-superintendent-school-principal-after-students-use-racial-slurs-in-video/287-b39c0c05-a25c-42c5-9207-302ed9f46032>
- vi. Westlake: <https://www.kxan.com/investigations/racism-at-westlake-students-share-painful-experiences-in-common/>

These are just a few. School Districts are generally afraid to enforce the law at best or otherwise generally supportive of reprehensible racist conduct being directed at Black students in Texas. This can only lead to division and conflict. The United States Constitution says we should seek justice and take actions to strive for a more perfect Union. We have seen anti-Black forces take over School Boards and prevent well-meaning administrators from taking action. Our Constitution provides for a Republican Form of Government which requires that our government act to protect the rights and interests of the minority so that they are not run over. The Founders and the Federalist Papers have all acknowledged the importance of protecting the minority. We ask you to take this important step in protecting our children by supporting HB4625.

Gary Bledsoe, President

