
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8006

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Litzow, McAuliffe, Rolfes, Dammeier, Keiser, Darneille, and Frockt

Read first time 01/22/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO ARNE DUNCAN,
5 SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SYLVIA MATTHEWS BURWELL,
6 SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED
7 STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER, AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
8 ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE:

9 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
10 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled,
11 respectfully represent and petition as follows:

12 WHEREAS, The prevalence of child sexual abuse by school personnel
13 and sexual abuse between peers is unknown, particularly because it
14 can go unreported; and

15 WHEREAS, Child sexual abuse by school personnel is especially
16 troubling given the trust placed in schools; and

17 WHEREAS, Sexual abuse between peers is deeply troubling given
18 that students should feel safe at school; and

19 WHEREAS, Federal law and Washington State law prohibit sex
20 discrimination, including sexual harassment and abuse, in public K-12
21 schools; and

22 WHEREAS, The United States Government Accountability Office in
23 its report on federal agencies supporting state efforts to prevent

1 and respond to child sexual abuse by school personnel has recommended
2 that the Departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and
3 Justice collaborate to compile and disseminate information to states
4 and identify a way to track the prevalence of sexual abuse; and that
5 the Department of Education clarify and disseminate information on
6 how Title IX applies to personnel-to-student sexual abuse in the
7 public K-12 school setting;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
9 Congress, the President, and the Departments of Education, Health and
10 Human Services, and Justice take action to support and implement the
11 recommendations of the United States Government Accountability Office
12 to address personnel-to-student sexual abuse and continue to address
13 peer-to-peer sexual abuse; and

14 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
15 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
16 States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
17 Representatives, Arne Duncan, the Secretary of Education, Sylvia
18 Matthews Burwell, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Eric
19 Holder, the Attorney General of the United States, the United States
20 Government Accountability Office, and each member of Congress from
21 the State of Washington.

--- END ---