

1 HJR247
2 201331-1
3 By Representatives Rafferty, Coleman, Givan, Morris, Rogers,
4 Moore (M), Hall, Bracy, Jones (S), Hatcher, Grimsley, Boyd,
5 Warren, Forte, Drummond, Clarke, Gray, Daniels, Hollis,
6 McCampbell, England, Chestnut, Lawrence, Howard, Lipscomb,
7 Moore (P), Fridy, Weaver, South, Treadaway and Ellis
8 RFD: Rules
9 First Read: 21-MAY-19

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8 CONDEMNING BULLYING IN ALABAMA IN ANY FORM AND IN
9 ANY PLACE AND RECOGNIZING SUICIDE CAUSED BY BULLYING.
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11 WHEREAS, experience and history have repeatedly
12 demonstrated that bullying is detrimental to life in a
13 civilized society; the members of this body share in the
14 justifiable outrage of Alabama residents who are subjected to
15 bullying and this body is dedicated to pursuing solutions that
16 diminish, and potentially alleviate, this destructive and
17 unnecessary behavior in this state; and

18 WHEREAS, the Student Harassment Prevention Act,
19 codified in Chapter 28B, Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975,
20 passed in the 2009 Regular Session, was recently expanded and
21 named the Jamari Terrell Williams Student Bullying Act to
22 commemorate the shortened life of a talented and gifted young
23 Alabama resident who took his own life after suffering
24 harassment and bullying in grade school; and

25 WHEREAS, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and
26 intimidation are offensive behaviors that substantially
27 interfere with a student's ability to learn, an employee's

1 work performance, and the every day life of other residents;
2 bullying creates an intimidating, hostile, and offensive
3 environment that excludes a victim from the group; and

4 WHEREAS, unwanted, aggressive behavior may repeat
5 and cause serious lasting problems for victims; this
6 irresponsible and reckless behavior is used to assert
7 domination and an imbalance of social or physical power; and

8 WHEREAS, bullying often targets an individual based
9 on his or her race, gender, national origin, disability,
10 sexual orientation, gender identity, medical conditions, any
11 perceived weakness or difference from the perpetrator, and
12 those struggling with identity or depression; and

13 WHEREAS, ruthless bullying was linked to the
14 senseless death of young Nigel Shelby of Huntsville in April
15 2019, who was only in the ninth grade and was being medically
16 treated for depression and struggling with his sexuality; and

17 WHEREAS, anti-bullying programs in educational and
18 employment settings generate awareness, promote psychological
19 safety, and help build character; the members of this body
20 support efforts to end bullying and harassment and programs
21 designed to address this growing concern; now therefore,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
23 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we unequivocally and strongly
24 condemn bullying in any form, at any time, and in any place in
25 Alabama.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support and
27 encourage further development and availability of

1 anti-bullying programs in schools, places of employment, and
2 in any place in Alabama where appropriate.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by copy of this
4 resolution, our absolute disgust for and disapproval of
5 bullying are fully known.