

1 HJR247  
2 201331-2  
3 By Representatives Rafferty, Coleman, Givan, Morris, Rogers,  
4 Moore (M), Hall, Bracy, Jones (S), Hatcher, Grimsley, Boyd,  
5 Drummond, Forte, Warren, 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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ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

CONDEMNING BULLYING IN ALABAMA IN ANY FORM AND IN ANY PLACE AND RECOGNIZING SUICIDE CAUSED BY BULLYING.

WHEREAS, experience and history have repeatedly demonstrated that bullying is detrimental to life in a civilized society; the members of this body share in the justifiable outrage of Alabama residents who are subjected to bullying and this body is dedicated to pursuing solutions that diminish, and potentially alleviate, this destructive and unnecessary behavior in this state; and

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

WHEREAS, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and intimidation are offensive behaviors that substantially interfere with a student's ability to learn, an employee's work performance, and the every day life of other residents; bullying creates an intimidating, hostile, and offensive environment that excludes a victim from the group; and

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

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

10           WHEREAS, ruthless bullying was linked to the  
11 senseless death of young Nigel Shelby of Huntsville in April  
12 2019, who was only in the ninth grade and was being medically  
13 treated for depression and struggling with his sexuality; and

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

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

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we strongly support and  
24 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.

