

## Opposed to HB - 4162

Good morning my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am a retired Police Chief from two communities and have served on the traditional Public-School Board, a public Board of Education, and Four Boards of Education of Charter Schools.

Bullying is an issue that needs to be addressed, from the giver side and the receiver side. It is easily recognized by involved parents and school officials who are both interested in a person's welfare. The receiver of bullying is often traumatized to the point of causing harm to themselves or to others who are causing the problem. The ones doing the bullying often create other issues in the school environment. Social Media and the way it's being used by bullies is a large problem that needs to be regulated by the government and monitored by parents in the home environment.

I have worked with school systems as a police officer on bullying issues in several locations. Some of the schools have worked with Law Enforcement to a successful end to stop most of the bullying that occurred. Other school systems have internalized the issue with minimal success. In both issues parental involvement is the key to success.

There are a large number of school districts in the state of Michigan and each school System has numerous policies that address the needs of the youth in those different districts. Understand each district has a different relationship with the parents, young people being educated and the school officials. Being regulated by the State on a one size fits all will not solve the problem, it needs to be set in place by the school officials who know their local problems related to Bullying.

If each school district established a committee made up of school officials, law enforcement, and parents a solution to bullying will be found. Some of the state laws require students be expelled from the school and this has been discussed by some state officials. If that should happen a student will not have a future and that in itself is a crime. We need to work together to find a solution to the Bullying Problem with out state interference.

House Bill 4162 is unnecessary, and the bullying issue needs to be left to the local school system to establish policies that meets the needs of that system. Charter Schools and private schools each have their own methods of solving the problems, but for the most part work with the parents. Law enforcement is necessary to establish the basis of what could become a crime. Law Enforcement also has investigative powers to investigate the problems and assist in the recommendation of a solution.

The ultimate solution is with the parents, working with the young person, law enforcement and the school system to bring a final resolution to the bullying problem, not with the HB-4162. Again, the State making a law of one size fits all will not work, because the parents in a School System in Grand Rapids is very different than the needs of a parent and young person in a School System in the upper peninsula.