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April 9, 2003

The Honorable Wendell Williams, Chair
Assembly Education Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Assemblyman Williams:

During the summer of 2001, then Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa, and I had a discussion regarding student violence in schools and root causes. The Attorney General and I did not want an incident such as Columbine or San Diego to happen in Nevada. Research indicated that harassment and intimidation through bullying was at the heart of most school shooting incidents. Together we started a Bully-Free Task Force. The task force continues to this day with members from numerous organizations and agencies participating at their own expense. Last year, through the generosity of the Nevada PTA, The Grace Danberg Foundation, Inc., Bellagio and MGM Grand Hotel Casinos, we were able to print student pledges and information sheets on the effects of bullying to be distributed to all K-8 students.

AB 513 submitted by the current Attorney General's Office on behalf of the prior Attorney General establishes timelines for the development of a recommended policy and model program to deal with harassment and intimidation in Nevada schools. AB 513 further requires districts to provide appropriate training for all staff. Harassment and intimidation are leading causes of school violence. Harassment and intimidation affect student achievement. I strongly support all of AB 513 and/or any amendments necessary to minimize the funding needed to implement the bill requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack", written over the typed name.

Jack McLaughlin
Superintendent of Public Instruction

JM/da

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An Equal Opportunity Age

F 1117

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION

DATE: 4/9/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT F

SUBMITTED BY: JEAN AND BERKICH

WestEd

Improving education through research, development, and service

April 9, 2003

The Honorable Wendell Williams, Chair
Assembly Education Committee
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Assemblyman Williams:

I am the Director of the Center for Educational Equity at WestEd. I am also the Director of the Equity Assistance Center (EAC) for Federal Region IX (California, Arizona, and Nevada). For the last three years the Department of Education, (the EAC funding agency), has encouraged the EACs to become actively involved in providing training and technical assistance around issues of bullying, harassment, intimidation, violence in schools, safe schools planning, and now, the Department of Education recommendations for school planning to protect students from terrorist attacks.

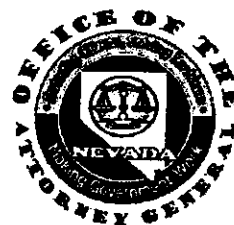
As a member of the Nevada Bully-Free Task Force, I have and will continue to commit support for developing a cadre of knowledgeable trainers to provide the training necessary for implementing programs to accomplish the above objectives within the context of the educational environment in Nevada.

In light of the above, I will commit resources from the EAC to assist with the development of the model program and initial trainer-of-trainer task called for in AB 513 currently being considered by the Nevada Legislature. I strongly support the passage of AB 513 as a means of reducing and/or preventing the kinds of problems listed above.

Sincerely,



Leonard C. Beckum, Director
Center for Educational Equity



www.bullyfree.org

**Assembly Education Committee Presentation
April 9, 2003**

A new report finds bullying and teasing topping the list of children's school troubles. The pain brought about by taunts and shunning at school appears to have played a role in recent fatal school shootings—evidence that this unrelieved stress may explode into tragedy. The report finds that more than two-thirds of school shooters said they felt persecuted or bullied by other students. The motive for the shooting was often revenge.

CNN News Report
March 8, 2001

ADVOCATING FOR BULLY-FREE SCHOOLS:

"Maintaining a safe and effective learning environment as part of the total strategy of achieving the educational mission.

Bernie James
Legal Counsel
National School Safety Center

Students who must think about avoiding harm at school are diverting energy that should be expended on learning. Improving student safety at school will enable American youth to redirect their concerns to school work and student activities."

Student Strategies to Avoid Harm at School

- *Bully-Free for Me!* task force
 - Member list
 - Goals:
 - Elimination of bullying/harassment in our schools.
 - Provide schools, parents and students with information.
 - Change the mindset of society to the damaging effects of harassment/bullying.
- Accomplishments
 - Creation of Action Plan, brochure, Parent Tip sheet and Student Pledge sheet.
 - Creation of website (www.bullyfree.org).
 - Brochure, Parent Tips sheet and Student Pledge sent to all Nevada 2-8 grade students.
 - Public reaction: many phone calls from parents addressing issue, thanking us for our efforts and seeking advice/assistance.

F 3/17