



Please join me in spreading the word about the first annual Anti-Bullying Awareness Month campaign in Kentucky this October.

In the 2014 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, Senate Bill 20, which was a combined initiative between the House of Representatives and the Senate, was passed to bring attention to the harmful and sometimes devastating consequences of bullying, especially in our schools. I was the proud sponsor of this bill.

This groundbreaking legislation established October as “Anti-Bullying Awareness Month” and designated a purple and yellow ribbon as the symbol for anti-bullying consciousness in the state. The color purple represents domestic violence victims and yellow represents those individuals who have taken their lives as a result of bullying.

I encourage you to challenge Kentucky school districts to plan programs, events, and informational sessions that highlight anti-bullying awareness and strategies in the classrooms, playgrounds, and cafeterias and at sporting events and extracurricular activities throughout the month of October.

Governor Steve Beshear recently announced the formation of the Kentucky Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force to study bullying and recommend practices to foster safer school environments. This Task Force is a welcomed spin-off of the foundation we’ve laid with Senate Bill 20, and I look forward to the tangible results it will produce on behalf of our children.

Bullying can be stopped, and it’s up to us to empower our children with the knowledge, tools, and self-esteem to make it happen.

Please share this message with our schools so October’s “Anti-Bullying Awareness” launch is the unprecedented success our children deserve it to be.

Sincerely,

Rita H. Smart
Kentucky State Representative