STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Secretary of State
Frankfort
Kentucky

2014-765
September 11, 2014

RELATING TO ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KENTUCKY YOUTH BULLYING PREVENTION TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, in recent decades, the United States has experienced a disturbing growth in the number of violent acts on school campuses; and

WHEREAS, school based violence has a tremendous and detrimental impact on the school in which it occurs, the surrounding community, and the nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, last year alone, the Kentucky Department of Education received reports of 15,520 bullying or harassment incidents in the 2012-2013 school year, and of that total, 6,941 of those incidents resulted in an out-of-school suspension or expulsion, and doubtless there are thousands more which went unreported; and

WHEREAS, 10% of dropouts give bullying as their main reason for leaving school, and approximately 60 percent of those identified as bullies in grades six through nine have been convicted of at least one crime by the age of 24; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that bullying is a significant factor in many teen suicides, with Kentucky's suicide death rate being the 17th highest in the nation and the 2nd leading cause of death for Kentuckians ages 15 to 34; and

WHEREAS, the State has a strong public interest in the safety and well being of all students in Kentucky schools; and

WHEREAS, Kentuckians place a high value on education, recognizing that our children are key to future success, economic vitality, social harmony, and quality of life in our state; and

WHEREAS, it is a priority of this administration to ensure that every Kentucky school provides a safe and welcoming environment, where every child is accepted and valued as he or she is so that each can thrive and learn:

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven L. Beshear, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Kentucky Constitution and KRS 12.029, do hereby Order and Direct the following:

I. The Kentucky Youth Bullying Prevention Task Force ("Task Force") is hereby created and established for the purpose of examining the state of bullying, harassment and intimidation in the Commonwealth, as well as reviewing existing laws and regulations, and to advise the Governor and the General Assembly on effective and comprehensive policies so as to ensure the safety of all students in Kentucky schools. The Task Force shall be attached to the Office of the Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education, for administrative and staff purposes.

II. The Task Force shall consist of no more than 22 members appointed as follows:

a. The Secretary of the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, who shall serve as Co-Chair;
b. The Commissioner of the Department of Education, who shall serve as Co-Chair;
c. The Chair of the Board of the Kentucky Center on School Safety;
d. Two members of the Kentucky State Senate;
e. Two members of the Kentucky House of Representatives;
f. Two members representing mental health professionals;
g. Three members with experience or expertise on bullying;
h. One non-profit representative;
i. One member representing school superintendents;
j. One member representing school principals;
k. One member representing law enforcement;
l. One family member of a youth that has experienced bullying;
m. One youth or young adult who has experienced bullying;
n. One attorney representing the Kentucky Bar Association;
o. Two members representing the business community;
p. One member representing school teachers;

III. The duties of the Task Force shall be as follows:

a. Study the issue of bullying amongst school-age children, focusing on a review of best practices and policies currently used to combat bullying;
b. Analyze existing statutes and policies, resources, reported levels of bullying, and consequences of bullying, intimidation and harassment;
c. Solicit and obtain input from the public, experts, professionals, and victims of bullying, intimidation and harassment;
d. Clearly define bullying, harassment and intimidation;
e. Raise awareness of bullying within our schools, as well as afterschool;
f. Develop better ways to utilize training and informational resources for educators, parents, and communities;

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g. Identify ways to provide families and law enforcement with the necessary tools to address cyber bullying;
h. Review and study the impact that bullying has on suicide prevention and mental health strategies;
i. Develop and implement strategies designed to leverage non-profit and community support to combat bullying;
j. Provide recommendations for policy initiatives to the Governor and the General Assembly based upon its findings;
k. Develop actionable recommendations for local schools to assist them in preparing and/or updating school safety plans;
l. Develop proposed school site safety and security assessment protocols and procedures;
m. Recommend specific school site safety improvements that individual schools could adopt;
n. Draft school-based safety training program recommendations for school staff and administrators; and
o. Identify funds needed for infrastructure improvements and training of school personnel and students to respond to emergency incidents.

IV. The Task Force will provide recommendations and convey its findings in a final report to the Governor's Office and the General Assembly on or before November 15, 2015. In addition, the Task Force may provide recommendations and findings to the Governor and/or the General Assembly at any time at its discretion.

V. The Governor shall appoint two (2) members to serve as Co-Chairs of the Task Force. The members of the Task Force shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and at the call of the Co-Chair.

VI. Support staff, facilities, and resources for the meetings of the Task Force shall be provided as directed by the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Education. Members of the Task Force shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the discharge of their official duties.

VII. All cabinets, departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the state, or any political subdivision thereof, are hereby authorized and directed to cooperate with the Task Force in implementing the provisions of this Order.

VIII. I hereby appoint the following to serve as members of the Task Force:

Secretary Audrey Haynes
Cabinet for Health and Family Services
275 E. Main Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Co-Chair

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Commissioner Terry Holliday
Kentucky Department of Education
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Co-Chair

John Akers
Kentucky Department of Education
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
Board Chair of Kentucky Center on School Safety

Senator Dorsey Ridley
702 Capitol Avenue, Suite 225
Frankfort, KY 40601
Representing the Kentucky Senate,
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Member

Senator Mike Wilson
702 Capitol Avenue, Suite 204
Frankfort, KY 40601
Representing the Kentucky Senate
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Member

Representative Derrick Graham
702 Capitol Avenue, Suite 367
Frankfort, KY 40601
Representing the Kentucky House of Representatives
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Member

Representative Regina Bunch
702 Capitol Avenue, Suite 424A
Frankfort, KY 40601
Representing the Kentucky House of Representatives
Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Member

Dr. Vestena Robbins, Policy Advisor
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and
Intellectual Disabilities
100 Fair Oaks Lane
Frankfort, KY 40601
Representing mental health professionals

Dr. Nancy Cunningham
University of Louisville
2301 South Third Street
Louisville, KY 40292
Expert on Bullying

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Ben Reno-Weber
YMCA/KY Youth Association
91 C. Michael Davenport Blvd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
Non-Profit Representative

Superintendent Bo Matthews
Barren County School Superintendent
107 E. Main Street
Glasgow, KY 42141
Representing School Superintendents

Principal Thomas Aberli
Atherton High School Principal
3000 Dundee Road
Louisville, KY 40205
Representing School Principals

Susan Guess
150 Rosebower Church Road
Paducah, KY 42003
Representing family member of youth
that has experienced bullying

Morgan Guess
150 Rosebower Church Road
Paducah, KY 42003
Representing youth that has experienced bullying

Hon. Carl Frazier
KY Bar Association's Young Lawyer Division
300 W. Vine Street, Ste. 2100
Lexington, KY 40507
Representing attorneys of the Kentucky Bar Association

Major Robert Carter
Madisonville Police Department
99 East Center Street
Madisonville, KY 42431
Law Enforcement Representative

Dr. Kelly Davis
1001 Pepperidge Drive
Bowling Green, KY 42103
Expert on bullying

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Rachel Willoughby
174 Cedar Trace Drive
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
Representing mental health professionals

Craig Browning
125 Rippling Creek Drive
Smiths Grove, KY 42171
Representing the business community

Mark Simindinger
649 Canterbury Drive
Edgewood, KY 41017
Representing the business community

Patty Cook-Craig
123Brewer Drive
Richmond, KY 40475
Expert on bullying

Juanita Spangler
202 Frogpond Lane
Whitesburg, KY 41858
Representing school teachers

Please issue Commissions to them.

STEVEN L. BESHEAR, GOVERNOR
Commonwealth of Kentucky

ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
Secretary of State