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Federal Government Takes on Bullying, Bill to be Introduced



by **Gig Veres**

Member since: November 30, 2010

March 17, 2011 06:50 PM EDT

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Rep. Jackie Speier, a California Democrat, will introduce a bill requiring [schools](#) to report bullying incidents against disabled children to the federal government. Speier said Wednesday that children with special needs currently are not specifically referenced as part of the anti-bullying curriculum.

Neal McCluskey, associate director of the Center for Educational Freedom at the libertarian Cato Institute, is concerned that a "protected [student](#) list" would be at the expense of all students.

[Yahoo! News](#) quotes McCluskey as saying, "So the person who's just a 'nerd' doesn't get the same level of protection because 'nerds' are not identified as a specific group in federal legislation."

In the wake of the Casey Bullying video making news across the nation, is this quest for federal intervention just another feel-good response? One would think the answer lies in the willingness, or resistance as the case may be, of local school administrations to be fully involved in the issue at hand.

Speier's efforts are part of a much larger national campaign to address the problem. President Obama has spoken on the issue, saying, "We've got to dispel this myth that bullying is just a normal rite of passage."

Of course, that's true, but will passing yet another law really fix the issue, which seems to stem from a detached attitude on the part of the schools themselves and the refusal of parents to control the behavioral problems of their own children ?

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libramoon C. Mar 17, 2011, 6:58pm EDT

No, passing yet another law will not fix the issue. Blazing light on the issue might lead to real fixes, if people are motivated.

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Char H. Mar 17, 2011, 9:58pm EDT

I heard this particular law is flawed too because it makes the schools responsible for bullying by other students on or off school grounds. In other words, the schools take complete responsibility to protect the kids from other students, whether it happens at school or not. That can't be true, nobody would write such a stupid law, would they?



Gig Veres Mar 18, 2011, 6:28am EDT

Of course not! Well...uh...er....maybe. LOL!

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Abby Greenhill Mar 18, 2011, 8:32am EDT

Where is the parents' share of the responsibility in this? They learn this from someplace and lots of bad stuff starts at home.

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