

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 363

Recognizing the achievements of SUPERB (Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve Bullying) and its founders Jeremy and Sharon Ring to address the growing problem of bullying in the Nation's schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2003

Mr. WEXLER (for himself and Mr. SHAW) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the achievements of SUPERB (Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve Bullying) and its founders Jeremy and Sharon Ring to address the growing problem of bullying in the Nation's schools.

Whereas according to a 2001 survey funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), bullying is widespread in schools in the United States, with more than 16 percent of school children saying they have been bullied by other students during the current term;

Whereas according to the School Psychologist Association, 160,000 American youth skip school every day fearing they will be a target of bullies;

Whereas according to researchers, bullies and their victims are more likely than others to develop depression and suicidal thoughts in life and are at a higher risk of becoming felons and domestic abusers;

Whereas according to a study by the National Threat Assessment Center run by the United States Secret Service, two-thirds of the 41 youths involved in school shootings since 1974 said they had been bullied at school and that revenge was one of their motives;

Whereas resolving bullying today will have long-lasting societal effects well into the lives of future generations;

Whereas Students United with Parents and Educators to Resolve Bullying (SUPERB) is a curriculum designed by experienced educators at Nova Southeastern University's Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, that teaches students to work together to overcome the epidemic of bullying by educating students, teachers, and parents that teasing and tormenting peers cannot be tolerated in the school community;

Whereas SUPERB is a program that works with community leaders and seeks not only to identify bullies and victims, but rather to transform the existing social contract that allows bullying and interpersonal violence to occur within schools;

Whereas SUPERB's purpose is to raise awareness and intervene at multiple levels by targeting students, parents, educators, and members of the local community to understand the "life-long" consequences of bullying;

Whereas SUPERB initially intends to target elementary and middle school students to try to form their attitudes as

early as possible, thereby attempting to halt the problem of bullying, and high school students will also be used as volunteers;

Whereas SUPERB launched a 6-school pilot program in September 2003, in Broward County, Florida, which is the third largest accredited school system in the Nation;

Whereas SUPERB has worked with the Broward County Board of Education and superintendent to select 6 schools from areas with diverse financial backgrounds to participate in the pilot program, and all 6 schools will be staffed with master's and doctoral level students from Nova Southeastern University's Family Therapy and Conflict Resolution programs;

Whereas SUPERB will also ensure regular correspondence with parents of the children in the pilot programs to educate them about SUPERB's goals and curriculum and to update them on the progress of their children;

Whereas SUPERB will leverage the vast resources of Nova Southeastern University as well as local businesses and media outlets to ensure that children receive awards for excellence within the pilot program; and

Whereas, because bullying is a health risk, by resolving it now, SUPERB's program is intended to decrease rates of depression and addiction later in life, and additionally, aims to curb criminal violence by training children early in life that tormenting others is not acceptable behavior: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) commends Students United with Parents
- 3 and Educators to Resolve Bullying (SUPERB), and

1 its founders Jeremy and Sharon Ring and Nova
2 Southeastern University for their steadfast commit-
3 ment to end bullying; and

4 (2) supports SUPERB's curriculum, which
5 teaches students to work together to overcome the
6 epidemic of bullying and uses a comprehensive pro-
7 gram that educates all members of the community,
8 to include the students, parents, and teachers.

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