

Pending Federal Legislation

There are two bills to watch, both supported by Safe Schools Coalition partners and friends:

- The Task Force
- PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
- HRC (Human Rights Campaign)
- GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network)
- GSA Network
- NCLR (National Center for Lesbian Rights)
- NCTE (National Center for Transgender Equality)

Student Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 998, s. 555)

It would prohibit discrimination in schools on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. It considers harassment to be a form of discrimination. And it prohibits retaliation against anyone for opposing conduct they reasonably believe to be unlawful under this Act.

Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R. 1648, S. 506)

It would ensure that all schools and districts implement comprehensive and effective anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies that specifically include gender identity and sexual orientation. Among other things, it would require states to collect and report information on bullying and harassment, assess needs, and provide technical assistance to districts. It would require districts to include clear prohibitions against bullying and harassment within their discipline policies; monitor progress; and inform parents, students, and educators annually about policies and grievance procedures.



OTHER PARTNERS: GLSEN says, *“The Safe Schools Improvement Act addresses GLSEN’s federal policy recommendations (outlined in the publication *Bridging the Gap in Federal Law*). Members of the **National Safe Schools Partnership** have signed on to these recommendations to promote school safety and improve student achievement for all students, through legislation that will comprehensively address the issues of bullying and harassment.”* Key education organizations include:

- American Association of School Administrators
- American Federation of Teachers
- American School Counselor Association
- American School Health Association
- National Education Association
- National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
- National Association of School Psychologists
- National Association of Secondary School Principals
- National Association of State Directors of Special Education
- National PTA
- School Social Work Association of America
- Society of State Directors of Health, Physical Education and Recreation