



## A.S.A.B.

### Meet the founders.

This group was founded on October 4th, 2011 by two high school students in 11th grade named Callie Pearson(right) and Dominique Oudsema.(left) Our group is A.S.A.B. All Students Against Bullying. We are just that. It doesn't get much simpler than straight up saying that we're students who are against bullying.

No matter who the bully is, the target, or why; bullying is wrong and it needs to stop. We understand that we cannot control every human being and stop them from being mean. But what we can do is have a penalty for doing so. We wish for schools to have stronger policies on bullying, as well as have state and federal laws against bullying that prosecute the bully/bullies.

We don't care if you're the richest, most well-known person on the planet. We don't even care if you're the president. If you're bullying, you're wrong, and it needs to stop. Bullying is a serious issue around the world, let alone in Michigan.

So far at least 10 Michigan students on record have committed suicide because of bullying. Do you believe that it is wrong to murder someone? Do you believe that it is wrong for someone to die because of someone else? Do you believe that it is wrong for someone to feel so badly about their life because of bullying and being harassed that they take their own lives? We believe that bullying is wrong, and we want to do something about it.

### Upcoming in ASAB

- Bullying Survey for OHS (History Classes)
- After school anti-bullying group petition
- Possible Bullying/ASAB assembly
- Possible Bake Sale to raise money and awareness

(All events will be announced ahead of time since we don't have dates yet.)

# Bullying in Michigan

Throughout the years, many people have been bullied. Today, more and more people are getting "picked on."

Now there is a thing called Cyber-bullying, which is bullying that occurs on the internet (usually on social websites like Facebook and MySpace.) Bullying is a problem, especially in Michigan. So far, 10 Michigan students on record, as stated by Senator Gretchen Whitmer, have committed suicide due to bullying.

Michigan's Senate made a bill to help fight against bullying. Senate Bill 137 stated that bullying was not allowed unless if a person had a "moral or religious conviction for doing so." This bill outlined what students could get away with, making it worse than not having a law. This bill was voted "No" on being passed.

Since then, however, Michigan's House of Representatives have passed Bill number 4162, which enforces all schools to have an anti-bullying policy. All Michigan schools must now create some form of anti-bullying policy that will protect students from being bullied and will handle bullies more effectively.

## Facts

- 30% of students grade six through ten are affected by moderate to frequent bullying
- 19% of those students have participated in bullying
- 10 Michigan students on record have committed suicide because of bullying.
- Telling someone to just stay away from the bully will not help.
- Telling an adult that you are being bullied will help, even if you're afraid you'll get bullied more for it.
- Standing up to the bully and being confident in yourself will help make them back down.
- Your true friends are the ones who help you.
- Misery loves company. Bullies bully because they're not happy and they feel it will help them/give them more power.

Facts found on [www.bullypolice.org](http://www.bullypolice.org)

<http://www.americanlawyeracademy.com/student-bullying-statistics-and-effects>

Self-knowledge/experience.

Michigan's anti-bullying bill is called "Matt's safe school law" in memory of Matt Epling, a Lansing student who committed suicide in 2002 because of an anti-gay hazing incident.

We believe that this bill could have more added to it to protect students more effectively. For example, schools should have an after school anti-bullying group that allows students to attend and talk about personal stories and what they could do to help when it comes to bullying. An anti-bullying group could help students find help that they need from their friends (the people closest to them within the school.)

Schools should also do more than tell their students to stay away from each other. (This comes from personal experience.) Bullies should be suspended for bullying someone and the suspension should depend upon how severe the situation is. Furthermore, if a person who bullies someone is brought to the schools attention several times an expulsion should be a possible option.

Schools need to be safe for its students. Students should feel protected.

## Websites

- [www.bullypolice.org](http://www.bullypolice.org)
- [www.allstudentsagainstabullying.wordpress.org](http://www.allstudentsagainstabullying.wordpress.org)
- <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>
- [www.twloha.com](http://www.twloha.com)

## Take control.

Call your congressmen; tell them what needs to be changed if you feel something needs to be changed. You can also write to your local newspaper and let the people know what is going on in their state! We need people to step forward and work to make a change. Without the people, nothing will happen, so Call Your Congressmen!

- Holly Hughes(Rep): 517-373-3436
- Geoff Hansen(Sen): 517-373-1635
- Rick Snyder(Gov): 517-373-3400
- Carl Levin(US Sen): 202-224-6221
- Debbie Stabenow(US Sen): 202-224-4822
- Bill Huizenga(US Rep): 202-225-4401
- Barack Obama(US Prez): 202-456-1414



**A.S.A.B.**  
(All Students Against Bullying)

Visit our blog at  
[www.allstudentsagainstabullying.wordpress.com](http://www.allstudentsagainstabullying.wordpress.com)