



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE CATHERINE F. ABERCROMBIE
EIGHTY-THIRD DISTRICT

64 Parker Street
Meriden, CT 06450
CAPITOL: 860-240-8585
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267
E-MAIL: Catherine.Abercrombie@cga.ct.gov

VICE CHAIR
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIONS AND ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman Rep Fleischman, Senator Stillman and members of the Education Committee, I am Rep Catherine Abercrombie and I represent the 83rd district. I am here today in support of SB 1138. I would like to thank both of you for your leadership on this important issue.

In 2002 Connecticut wrote the first piece of legislation focused on bullying. This bill was introduced due to a suicide of a student in my home town of Meriden. In 2008 we revised our bullying legislation to reflect the changes in our schools. Today we are here to include "cyber bullying".

The current bill is very comprehensive and I'd like to bring the committee a piece that I feel is vital to this legislation; it was taken out of the original bill, Enumerated categories. Enumerated categories list the different groups in the school setting including but not limited to race, sex, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. This category adds a layer of protection for all students and also aligns our definition with the federal definition.

I urge the committee's support of SB 1138. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this issue.