Tell Congress: Take Action Against Bullying

Bullying affects students of all ethnicities, classes, and religions, and can negatively affect their ability to receive an education. According to regional surveys, up to 70% of Muslim students report being bullied in school.¹

Here are some things Congress can do to combat bullying:

**Pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act**
There is currently no federal law specifically against bullying in schools. The [Safe Schools Improvement Act (H.R. 1957)](https://ing.org/bullying-prevention-guide/) by Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38):
- Requires states to direct their Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to have comprehensive policies to prohibit and prevent bullying in schools.
- Directs the Department of Education to evaluate these policies every two years.
- Requires LEAs to publish annual data on bullying in their jurisdictions.
- Covers bullying based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.

**Include Religious Discrimination in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**
The [Civil Rights Act of 1964](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/know-rights-201701-religious-disc.pdf) protects students from discrimination based on categories such as race or national origin, but does not explicitly include religion as a protected category.² Amending this law to include religion would strengthen protections for students who may receive negative treatment based on their religion.

**Support Anti-Bullying Trainings for Educators**
Congress can create a grant program similar to the [Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Programs](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/know-rights-201701-religious-disc.pdf), for schools to train educators to recognize and combat bullying, particularly based on marginalized identities, in their classrooms.

² “Know Your Rights: Title VI and Religion.” U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 2017. [https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/know-rights-201701-religious-disc.pdf](https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/know-rights-201701-religious-disc.pdf)