

Resolution #16

DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

Submitted by: Office and Professional Employees International Union

The Office and Professional Employees International Union fully supports an amendment to the New York State Education law to prohibit harassment and discrimination against students in school, including bullying based on real or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) and sex.

Schools are places where students should concentrate on learning and personal growth, not on avoiding taunting or violence.

WHEREAS, it is essential for New York State to pass statewide anti-harassment measures applicable to public schools that are inclusive of sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, no student should be so preoccupied by the fear or actuality of harassment or discrimination because of his or her real or perceived race, color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and expression) or sex that he or she is unable to receive an education; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the New York State AFL-CIO affirms its commitment to equal rights for all students, and to schools as safe learning and work environments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the New York State AFL-CIO stands with its sisters and brothers in the New York State United Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers in their steadfast support of this bill to end harassment of students; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the officers and affiliated members of the New York State AFL-CIO call upon the Legislature and the Governor to enact a law to prohibit bias harassment and discrimination against students in schools, and pledge that the New York State AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions will actively work to achieve this goal.