



## AB 1318: Safe Place to Learn Act

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### **Issue**

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) reported an increase in hate crimes following the 2016 Presidential election.<sup>1</sup> According to the SPLC, a majority of the 900 incidents reported to them nationwide in the ten days following the election had occurred at schools.<sup>2</sup> In 2014, CAIR-CA surveyed 621 students between the ages of 11 and 18 who were enrolled in public and non-Muslim private schools throughout the state of California. Of the American Muslim students surveyed, 55% reported being subjected to some form of bullying based on their religious identity. This is twice as high as the national statistic of students reporting being bullied at school. Hate incidents are often underreported. Approximately 46% of students who reported incidents of bullying to their schools were unhappy or unsure about their school's response.

### **Bill Summary**

The bill strengthens current law, which addresses discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on actual or perceived characteristics of a student including disability, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, nationality, race or ethnicity, or religion. The reporting requirement under AB 1318 will ensure transparency and accountability in addressing intergroup conflict.

AB 1318 would:

- Require certified school employees serving grades 7-12 to receive training on tools and methods to address intergroup conflict.
- Require a letter to be distributed to all students, guardians and employees to reaffirm values of inclusion and diversity from the local education agency (LEA).
- Require all incidents of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and bullying, including perceived motivation, and the LEA's responses to be reported to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

### **What is Being Asked of California Legislators?**

- Support the Safe Place to Learn Act: AB 1318, which would require reporting of all incidents of discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying and require all certified employees serving students to receiving training to address intergroup conflict and promote positive intergroup relations.
- Co-sponsor the bill by contacting Kevin Hefner at the office of Assembly Member David Chiu at 916-319-2017 or [kevin.hefner@asm.ca.gov](mailto:kevin.hefner@asm.ca.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> "Ten Days After: Harassment and Intimidation in the Aftermath of the Election". <https://www.splcenter.org/20161129/ten-days-after-harassment-and-intimidation-aftermath-election>. Southern Poverty Law Center. November 29, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Mislabeled: The Impact of School Bullying and Discrimination on California Muslim Students. <https://ca.cair.com/losangeles/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/2015CAIRCABullyingreport1.pdf>. Council of American-Islamic Relations, California Chapter. October 2015.