



## WV BULLY-FREE

- **LGBT BULLYING HAPPENS.**
  - GLSEN's 2009 National School Climate Survey reported "nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students experienced harassment at school in the past year and nearly two-thirds felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation. Nearly a third of LGBT students skipped at least one day of school in the past month because of safety concerns."
  - The U.S. Department of Education recognizes that, as a group, LGBT students experience greater instances of being bullied than almost any other group of students.
- **ENUMERATION IS CRITICAL to ensuring that anti-bullying policies are effective for all students.**
  - Based on GLSEN data, policies without enumeration are about as effective as having no policy at all when it comes to anti-LGBT bullying and harassment.
  - GLSEN's survey showed that students in schools with anti-bullying policies that included protections based on sexual orientation and/or gender identity/expression "heard fewer homophobic remarks, experienced lower levels of victimization related to their sexual orientation, were more likely to report that staff intervened when hearing homophobic remarks and were more likely to report incidents of harassment and assault to school staff than students at schools with a general policy or no policy."
- **WHAT IS RIGHT FOR AMERICA IS RIGHT FOR WEST VIRGINIA.**
  - The US DOE supports an enumerated anti-bullying policy that includes, among other classes, sexual orientation and gender identity.
  - While the US DOE supports enumeration, it acknowledges schools are currently required to protect LGBT youth from school bullying under Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. As such, enumeration does not increase teacher liability, but complies with federal mandates.
  - The federal government recognizes the enumeration of specific characteristics including but not limited to LGBT as a KEY component to state anti-bullying laws.
- **EDUCATORS NATIONWIDE SUPPORT THE ANTI-BULLYING MOVEMENT.**
  - The federal Student Non-Discrimination Act that specifically enumerates "a student's actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity." It is endorsed by the American Civil Liberties Union, American Counseling Association, **American Federation of Teachers**, American Psychological Association, Child Welfare League of America, GLSEN, HRC, NAACP, National Association of School Psychologists, National Education Association, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and People for the American Way.