



STATE SENATOR
JOE SCHIAVONI

33RD DISTRICT

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

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Senator Schiavoni Applauds Passage of the Jessica Logan Act
Bill would require school officials to educate students on anti-bullying policies

Columbus – State Senator Joe Schiavoni (D-Canfield) today applauded the passage of House Bill 116 in the Senate Education Committee, now known as the Jessica Logan Act. The bill incorporates several concepts from Senator Schiavoni’s SB 127, which also addresses current anti-harassment policies in Ohio’s schools and the growing problem of cyber bullying.

“Over the last several months we have been able to make a lot of progress in protecting our children from cyber bullying,” said Senator Schiavoni.

The legislation adds several anti-bullying provisions to the already required teacher in service training. Some of the provisions include, allowing anonymous reporting, prohibiting students from making a false report and adds school buses as a location where harassment can be disciplined. The bill also requires that parents be notified at home of school bullying policies so that they can address them with their children.

House Bill 116 will give teachers and administrators the tools necessary to keep further distractions out of their classrooms and foster a positive learning environment. More importantly, the changes made in HB 116 could potentially save students’ lives.

“In today’s technological world, the bullying does not stop when a student leaves the classroom,” said Senator Schiavoni. “Texting, Twitter and Facebook have all allowed for bullying on a mass, nearly constant scale that makes it easier for students to bully and harder for educators and administrators to do their jobs”

Jessica Logan became a victim of cyber-bullying after private pictures that she sent to her boyfriend via cell phone were shared without her permission. The Cincinnati-area teen committed suicide in July 2008 after being severely harassed by her

classmates.