



September 2016

Dear Community Leader:

Schools and communities locally and nationwide will recognize October, 2016 as Bullying Awareness Month. School bullying is widespread across the United States. Each day an estimated 160,000 children refuse to go to school because they dread the physical and verbal aggression of their peers, and the loneliness that comes from being excluded and made the target of rumors and cyber-bullying. Many more students attend school in a chronic state of anxiety.

At The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges we see our mission as making schools and our community's places where every student feels included by their peers and accepted and valued for who they are. We invite our local schools, school districts and communities to address bullying during the month of October with special emphasis. Our goal is for all children to develop the social and emotional intelligence that will give them greater success in their peer relationships, their academic performance and in their adult lives.

To that end we are asking local leaders from throughout the New York State to focus on bullying awareness during the month of October. One way to do that is by adopting a resolution or proclamation in your municipality to that effect. A sample resolution is attached to this letter for your convenience. We would ask that you please share a copy of your adopted resolution or proclamation with The Academy so that we can publicize the local governments that are participating in this effort. In addition, we encourage you to contact your local school district to find out what events they are planning to raise awareness to this critical issue affecting all of our children and attend those events if you are able.

Please refer to The Academy for Character Education at The Sage Colleges web site at <https://www.sage.edu/academics/centers-of-inquiry/the-academy-for-character-education/> for additional resources to assist you in your awareness efforts.

It is time to Stand UP for Character – DOWN to Bullying! By working together, we can make this happen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kathleen M. Jimino'.

Kathleen M. Jimino

Rensselaer County Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John T. McDonald, III'.

John T. McDonald, III

Assembly Member
108th Assembly District

**SAMPLE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING OCTOBER, 2016
AS ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, We must safeguard schools and communities for our children, and, through our recognition of the serious issues that face them each day, offer our children an environment that holds promise and security; and

WHEREAS, Many organizations, school districts, educators and parents have publicly expressed concern about the bullying of children; and

WHEREAS, Each day an estimated 160,000 children refuse to go to school because they dread the physical and verbal aggression of their peers, and the loneliness that comes from being excluded and made the target of rumors and cyber-bullying; many more students attend school in a chronic state of anxiety; and

WHEREAS, It is important that we acknowledge and heighten awareness about the serious issues and the negative effects of bullying, including the long-term damage it can cause in our youth as well as the risks of teenage suicide; and

WHEREAS, Providing a safe physical and emotional environment is a significant goal and a personal responsibility of each individual; and

WHEREAS, It is time to “**Stand UP for Character - DOWN to Bullying!**”; now, therefore be it

PROCLAIMED, that I, _____ do hereby designate the month of October 2016 as Anti-Bullying Awareness Month in _____ as a symbol of our commitment to the year-round struggle against bullying.