



UNH Expertise Available On Anti-Bullying Legislation Proposed In Several States

Contact: [Lori Wright](#)
603-862-0574
UNH Media Relations

[Erika Mantz](#)
603-862-1567
UNH Media Relations

March 24, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- Several states across the country are considering anti-bullying legislation in grades K-12. In Florida, the effort was prompted after a Cape Coral boy killed himself after years of harassment from a classmate. Other states considering anti-bullying legislation include Alaska, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Wyoming. In addition, several provinces in Canada have proposed similar legislation. In the United States, nearly two dozen states have anti-bullying laws.

Two faculty members from the University of New Hampshire are available to discuss different aspects of the issue.

Todd DeMitchell, professor of education, is available to discuss school liability, adequate supervision, and responses to preventing bullying from school administrators and state legislatures. In addition to his research in this area, DeMitchell has two decades of experience in K-12, including as a teacher, principal and superintendent. He can be reached at (603) 862-5043 and tad@unh.edu.

Melissa Holt, a research scientist in UNH's Crimes against Children Research Center, can discuss the current research around bullying, signs of bullying and ways to stop it. She is currently conducting research in Massachusetts that looks at bullying during the transition from elementary to middle school, and its link to other forms of victimization. Holt can be reached at (603) 862-2532 and melissa.holt@unh.edu.