



**American Civil
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March 13, 2013

The Honorable Glenn Anderson
610 Farnum Building
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Anderson:

Thank you for offering the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan the opportunity to submit a statement of our position on Senate Bill 74, which addresses the issue of school bullying, including cyberbullying.

While recognizing the concern many Americans have about the dangers facing children on the Internet, particularly regarding cyberbullying, we have oftentimes in the past opposed legislation meant to regulate such online behavior on the grounds that it aims to criminalize protected First Amendment speech.

Senate Bill 74 is different from past introduced cyberbullying legislation in that it appropriately makes school districts responsible for establishing anti-bullying policy, which must address and include a definition of cyberbullying, in a manner that does not infringe on protected First Amendment speech. Therefore, the ACLU of Michigan does not oppose Senate Bill 74 as currently written.

Sincerely,

Shelli Weisberg, Legislative Director
American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan