

Winnie
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Dear Honorable Delegate,

I am upset about the cyber bullying laws in Maryland. I need your help to strengthen them. Cyber bullying is harmful for many reasons. I have chosen three reasons to share with you. Children can be cyber bullied all day and night. After the initial bullying stops there is nothing to stop the bully from doing it again. Cyber bullying has caused physical and emotional harm. It has even lead up to death.

The reason why children can be bullied day and night is because most kids have constant access to electronics. Children get annoyed and may take their anger out on other children. This can happen in chat rooms, social networking sites, and on game sites. Kids can say hurtful things that will make other kids feel angry. We should teach the students about cyber bullying so kids will know how to respond when it happens.

Cyber bullying is horrible for the victim. The cyber bully may not get any more punishments, other than the ones given at school. Currently, the only state penalty for cyber bullying is a \$500 fine, then it is all over. Even if the bully feels a little bit sorry, he or she can go back in to normal life, like it didn't happen. The victim however, will need support to get back on track to a normal life. It's not fair to the victim because they didn't want to be bullied in the first place. Hopefully, we will be able to fix this law so the bully can get more punishments.

Lastly, cyber bullying is dangerous. Forty-two percent of kids have been bullied online. There are many kids who get bullied but don't do anything about it and it will get worse. Twenty percent of kids have been threatened online. Ignoring the threatening words will make it worse and will make the bully send more threatening words. When children can't find a way out of cyber bullying they will often kill themselves or hurt others. Hopefully we will fix laws so these cruel things won't happen.

Cyber bullying can be caused day and night. Nothing stops the cyber bully from doing it again. Cyber bullying has also caused death. I think you should work on more laws so the cyber bully will get more punishment when they bully someone.

Thank you for your time,

Winnie