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A resolution by Supervisors Alexander, Taylor (2), and Johnson, Jr., recognizing the month of October, in 2017, and each succeeding year, as Bullying Prevention Month, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, bullying is an intentional behavior that hurts, harms, or humiliates a person, either physically or emotionally, and those bullying often have more social or physical power, while those targeted have difficulty stopping the behavior, which is often repeated; and

WHEREAS, the reasons for being bullied most often reported by students are looks, body shape, and race; and

WHEREAS, 74 percent of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students have been verbally bullied because of their sexual orientation; all of which are appalling reasons for the widespread bullying behavior our nation currently faces; and

WHEREAS, bullying occurs in schools, at playgrounds, in social media, and the workplace; and in its most offensive form, in the home; touching all corners of our society, and throughout Milwaukee County; and

WHEREAS, the National Center for Educational Statistics reports that more than 20 percent of students report being bullied, while additional studies show the sad reality that 64 percent of children who are bullied do not report it; indicating that it is quite possible that over 55 percent of young people are actually victims of this intentional harm, whether they report it or not; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying are at greater risk for mental health and behavioral problems, including self-blame, depression, prolonged victimization, and maladjustment; and

WHEREAS, children who witness bullying often feel less secure, more fearful, and intimidated, perpetuating a world of harm and trauma, ultimately hindering their ability to be all that they can be; and

WHEREAS, 57 percent of bullying situations stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the person being bullied; and

WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community about the perils of bullying, including the chance of committing suicide more than doubles when children become victims of bullying; and

45 WHEREAS, according to Davis & Nixon, some of the most harmful messages for
46 victims include that they should solve the problem themselves, act differently to stop the
47 bullying, ignore the problem, or stop tattling; and
48

49 WHEREAS, in contrast, the most helpful actions are to listen to victims, check-in
50 afterwards to see if the bullying has stopped, and to give advice, and
51

52 WHEREAS, we must work together to educate our community of the
53 consequences of turning a blind eye to bullying, and we must intervene as a positive
54 force to stand up for the dignity of all people; and
55

56 WHEREAS, the Committee on Health and Human Needs, at its meeting of
57 September 20, 2017, recommended adoption of File No. 17-582 (vote 4-0); now,
58 therefore,
59

60 BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board)
61 recognizes the Month of October, in 2017, and in each succeeding year, as Bullying
62 Prevention Month in Milwaukee County (the County); and
63

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in partnership with the Public Access to Court
65 Electronic Records National Bullying Prevention Center, the County Board hereby
66 recognizes October 25, 2017, and in each succeeding year as Unity Day, a day to
67 speak out against harmful actions and treatment of our fellow human beings, and to
68 make special efforts to promote kindness, acceptance, and inclusion; and
69

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Unity Day is to be promoted by wearing the color
71 orange in order to initiate conversations about bullying, and to draw community
72 attention to the problem of bullying; and
73

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board commits to:
75 • Stand up for the value of every person, recognizing that love for humankind is
76 not an emotion, but a decision
77 • Stand up against unacceptable behavior or treatment of others, and to never be
78 a silent bystander should any member of this body witness an act of bullying
79 • Stand up for human decency, and celebrate differences, discipline, and dignity
80

81 ; and
82

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, all County departments and cultural institutions,
84 along with area public and private schools, students, parents, recreation programs,
85 religious institutions, and community organizations are encouraged to engage in a
86 variety of awareness and prevention activities designed to make our communities safer
87 for all people.
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91 09/20/17

