



**Bernard C. "Jack" Young**  
*President,*  
Baltimore City Council

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**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT CALLS FOR HEARING INTO PREVALENCE OF  
BULLYING IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
*Bill calls for top school leaders to address council on the prevalence of bullying among  
school children.*

**BALTIMORE, MD** – City Council President Bernard C. “Jack” Young today will introduce legislation calling for top school officials to detail the prevalence of bullying in public schools and to outline the steps being taken to eliminate the physical and emotional intimidation of public school students.

The bill calls for three of the city’s top school leaders to directly address members of the City Council: Andres Alonso, Baltimore schools CEO; Marietta English, President of the Baltimore Teachers’ Union; and Jimmy Gittings, President of the Baltimore City Public School Administrators and Supervisors Association.

“Our children deserve to attend schools that serve as vehicles for educational enrichment and that are free from violence and harassment of any kind,” Council President Young said. “This resolution will help to shine a bright light on bullying and help to educate school officials, parents and students on ways to recognize and properly address bullying.”

A 2009 study by the Maryland State Department of Education found that during the 2007-2008 school year more than 3,300 Maryland public school students were suspended or expelled for bullying and harassment.

In Baltimore City several high-profile cases have drawn attention to bullying. In February a 16-year-old boy was sentenced to 50 years in prison for killing a fellow classmate in the stairwell of Lemmell Middle School in 2008. And in April three students were suspended from Gilmor Elementary School for bullying a third-grade student, who suffers from cerebral palsy. As of late April the Office of Student Support had received 105 reports of bullying, which represents a 33 % increase in bullying incidents compared to the same period a year

ago.

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