

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW
BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 179 AND HOUSE
BILL 306 SUPPORTING THE PREVENTION OF BULLYING / CYBER
BULLYING.**

WHEREAS, the National Center for Educational Statistics for 2016, reports that more than one out of every five students report being bullied; and

WHEREAS, Bullying/Cyber Bullying in and outside of schools is an ever increasing problem with statistics showing that students bullied on a regular basis lead to negative impacts on their ability to learn in a safe environment without fear and has negative lifelong consequences for those who are the target of bullying and for those who bully; and

WHEREAS, Bullying/Cyber Bullying incidents have increased through the use of social media, resulting in suicidal tendencies and severe depression; and

WHEREAS, federal studies show that “bullying can be prevented, especially when the power of a community is brought together;” and

WHEREAS, “Community-wide strategies can help identify and support children who are bullied, redirect the behavior of children who bully, and change the attitudes of adults and youth who tolerate bullying behaviors in peer groups, schools and communities;” and

WHEREAS, studies show that school-based bullying prevention programs decrease bullying by up to 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, the percentages of individuals who have experienced cyber bullying at some point in their lifetimes have nearly doubled from 2007 to 2016; and

WHEREAS, the David’s Legacy Foundation was created by the parents of David B. Molak following his untimely death through suicide as a result of prolonged bullying; and

WHEREAS, the David’s Legacy Foundation started the Don’t Bully Me Project with the goal of putting an end to bullying; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Senator Jose Menendez has recognized that Texas laws need to keep pace with evolving technology and as such has filed S.B. 179 “David’s Law” to empower school administrators and law enforcement to go after and reprimand the bullies who prey on students, while focusing rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable Representative Ina Minjarez also recognized this need and filed a companion bill, H.B. 306 in the Texas House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, “David’s Law” will prevent and combat bullying in schools through several measures to include school administrator reporting requirements, creation of a misdemeanor offense for electronically harassing or bullying anyone under the age of 18 through text messages, social media, websites, apps, or other means, and providing additional counseling and rehabilitation services to the victim and the aggressor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS:

THAT, the City Council does hereby request that Senator Donna Campbell, Representative Kyle Biederman, and Representative John Kuempel of the Texas Legislature support S.B. 179 and H.B.306.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 27th day of February, 2017.

City of New Braunfels, Texas

BARRON CASTEEL, Mayor

Attest:

PATRICK D. ATEN, City Secretary