**Know Laws & Legislation on Bullying**

* Anti-bullying laws are in effect in 45 states throughout the US, including bills for informing and educating schools and communities. Which provides training to school staff, state agencies and neighborhoods that want to make a change!
* Montana, is the only remaining U.S. states that has **NOT** enacted legislation specifically targeting bullying. The majority of states DO NOT address Cyberbullying in their laws.

* Unfortunately, to date there are no federal laws protecting victims of bullying. Currently the anti-bullying laws in place fits the needs of each state, according to state statistics.
* The Columbine shootings in 1999, in Colorado were the catalyst for present anti-bullying statutes. The state of Georgia was the first state to enact bullying legislation, and every state but four has instigated its own legislation. The rights and laws are enforced by the Department of Justice and the Department of Education, and all the statutes are not identical policies
* With exception to more severe cases of bullying, there are federal education laws in place when bullying becomes an issue at a federally funded institute. These cases involve discrimatory harassment based on race, nationality, religion or disability. Schools/universities must launch an investigation, and resolve the matter. These bullying cases are covered under federal civil rights laws, federal disability laws, and the federal special education law.
* When state laws do not seem to help, there are civil rights laws put in place to protect the victim at any education level, by the US Department of Education and Department of Justice. These special education federal laws, fall under the Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964.
* When a bully attacks/harasses based on race, color, sex, nationality or disability-then it becomes a civil rights violation. Some parents launch investigations through schools, some parents may prefer to seek legal counsel-either way the issue should be addressed. There are many organizations on-line and state offices to help inform, prevent and educate.

Sources: http://www.bullyingstatistics.org/content/bullying-laws.html)–(http://www.makebeatsnotbeatdowns.org/facts\_new.html)–