

As Introduced

**130th General Assembly
Regular Session
2013-2014**

H. C. R. No. 13

Representative Antonio

**Cosponsors: Representatives Clyde, Rogers, Stinziano, Ramos, Szollosi,
Pillich, Ashford, Fedor, Hagan, R., Lundy, Driehaus, Celebrezze, Williams**

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To declare the third Friday in April the National Day 1
of Silence in Ohio to bring attention to 2
anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender 3
name-calling, bullying, and harassment in schools. 4

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
OF OHIO (THE SENATE CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, The National Day of Silence is a day in which 5
students take a vow of silence to bring attention to the anti- 6
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender name-calling, bullying, 7
and harassment faced by individuals in schools; and 8

WHEREAS, The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network 9
designates the third Friday of every April as the National Day of 10
Silence; and 11

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of students at more than 8,000 12
schools have participated in the National Day of Silence in past 13
years; and 14

WHEREAS, The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network's 15
2011 National School Climate Survey illustrates the pervasive 16
harassment and victimization faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, and 17
transgender students by documenting their experiences within the 18

preceding academic year; and 19

WHEREAS, According to the report, nearly eighty-two per cent 20
of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students reported being 21
verbally harassed by their peers at school because of their sexual 22
orientation, and more than sixty per cent because of their gender 23
expression; and 24

WHEREAS, More than thirty-eight per cent of lesbian, gay, 25
bisexual, and transgender students reported being physically 26
harassed by their peers at school because of their sexual 27
orientation, and over twenty-seven per cent because of their 28
gender expression; and 29

WHEREAS, Over eighteen per cent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, 30
and transgender students reported being physically assaulted by 31
their peers at school because of their sexual orientation, and 32
more than twelve per cent because of their gender expression; and 33

WHEREAS, More than sixty per cent of lesbian, gay, bisexual, 34
and transgender students reported that they felt unsafe in school, 35
and nearly thirty per cent reported missing at least one entire 36
school day in the preceding month because of safety concerns; and 37

WHEREAS, Transgender students reportedly are more likely than 38
all other students to report feeling unsafe at school because of 39
their gender expression; and 40

WHEREAS, According to the *National Transgender Discrimination* 41
Survey, issued jointly by the National Center for Transgender 42
Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, those who 43
expressed a transgender identity or gender nonconformity while in 44
grades kindergarten through twelve reported alarming rates of 45
harassment, physical assault, and sexual violence so severe that 46
almost fifteen per cent of those surveyed had to leave school; and 47

WHEREAS, Student academic performance is affected such that 48
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students who experienced 49

high levels of verbal harassment because of their sexual 50
orientation or gender expression report a grade point average 51
nearly a half grade lower than those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, 52
and transgender students who experienced low levels of such 53
harassment; and 54

WHEREAS, The presence of supportive staff contributed to a 55
range of positive indicators including fewer reports of missing 56
school, fewer reports of feeling unsafe, greater academic 57
achievement, higher educational aspirations, and a greater sense 58
of school belonging; and 59

WHEREAS, Cities and school districts in this state are 60
adopting policies to prohibit name-calling, bullying, harassment, 61
and discrimination against students on the basis of their sexual 62
orientation and gender identity or expression; and 63

WHEREAS, Every child should be guaranteed an education free 64
from name-calling, bullying, harassment, and discrimination 65
regardless of his or her sexual orientation and gender identity or 66
expression; now therefore be it 67

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 68
of the State of Ohio, designate the third Friday of April of 2013 69
as the National Day of Silence in Ohio, support the goals and 70
ideals of the National Day of Silence, and call on the people of 71
the state to observe the National Day of Silence with appropriate 72
ceremonies, programs, and activities; and be it further 73

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 130th General Assembly 74
of the State of Ohio, encourage cities and school districts in 75
this state to adopt policies to prohibit name-calling, bullying, 76
harassment, and discrimination against students, teachers, and 77
other school staff regardless of their sexual orientation and 78
gender identity or expression, so that the state's schools are 79
institutions where all individuals are able to focus on learning; 80

and be it further 81

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives 82

transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the 83

Governor of Ohio and to the news media of Ohio. 84