

Dear Friends of Youth:

I am honored to present to you the 2007 “Having Our Say” poetry booklet. On behalf of the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP – Center), I am proud to unveil this publication which not only offers a first-hand account of the negative effects bullying has on North Carolina’s youth but inspires students and teachers across the state to continue promoting anti-bullying in their schools.

Throughout the past decade, DJJDP – Center has been a leading expert in the efforts to prevent school bullying and promote school safety. Specifically, DJJDP – Center has been proactive in providing schools with the tools needed to prevent, intervene, and respond to school violence through the creation of a Critical Incident Response Kit and an anonymous school safety tip line. In addition, DJJDP – Center works with schools, educators, law enforcement, community groups, and parents to discuss and develop solutions to school violence. Past campaigns have included an anti-bullying calendar as well as several anti-bullying posters. Several posters were designed with student artwork.

As the current times suggest, we must continue to seek new avenues for providing resources, trainings, and assistance to schools, families, and communities as a means of carrying out anti-bullying efforts. Every student should be able to attend a school that is safe and secure, free of fear, and conducive to learning. I am pleased to say that the publication of this poetry booklet is another step in the right direction.

Sincerely,



George L. Sweat  
Secretary,  
North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice  
and Delinquency Prevention