

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

330 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3361

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Congress of the United States
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405 NORTH BEAVER STREET #6
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

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11555 WEST CIVIC CENTER DRIVE #104A
MARANA, AZ 85653

550 NORTH 9TH PLACE
SHOW LOW, AZ 85901

1400 EAST ASH
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March 22, 2013

Secretary Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I'm pleased to write this letter in support of the documentary film *Bullied to Silence*, which premiered at the Boston International Film Festival. This film offers a national, broad-spectrum representation of those who are bullied and those who bully, along with bystanders, educators, parents, lawmakers and community members. It provides hope and a path for change by focusing not only on the tragedies but on the triumphs and opportunities that result from joining forces to create positive action.

Bullied to Silence is being shown in schools throughout my district and across the county. It has been requested and screened for events on tribal lands, including the Window Rock Suicide Prevention Week and the California Suicide Prevention Conference. Educators who have viewed this video and shown it to their students have noted a difference in their school environments. If bullying occurs now, they refer back to the film and its messages as teaching opportunities.

I strongly support this film's effort to change the way bullying is viewed in our country. A school should be a safe place, focused on teaching our kids and preparing them for adult lives. It should not be an experience that students dread every day. I would like to invite you and your staff to join me at your convenience to view a screening of the film in my office. Afterwards, I hope you will consider sharing it with schools and community-based youth programs throughout the country.

I hope you will consider my recommendation of this film, as well as my invitation. For more information, and to view the trailer, please visit www.bulliedtosilence.com.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One