

**BULLYDOWN PHASE ONE  
BULLETON BOARD FOCUS GROUP:  
ASSENT FORM FOR CHILDREN AGES 11-14**

**Background/Purpose**

We are recruiting young people for online focus groups being conducted by the Center for Innovative Public Health Research. They are developing a bullying prevention program for youth that will be sent through text messaging. This research study is sponsored by the HopeLab Foundation.

**Procedures**

You are being asked to take part in a 3-day bulletin board focus group. The focus group will take place over three days. It will be online, in a bulletin board format. We will ask you to come to the website 2 to 3 times each day, when it's convenient for you. At the website, you'll see questions that the moderator has posted for you to answer.

We will ask your thoughts about different parts of the bullying prevention program that we are developing. For example, we will ask about the type of information you have heard at school about bullying; how to prevent bullying; and how useful you think bullying prevention information is.

If you take part in all 3 days of the focus group, we will send you a \$50 Amazon gift card.

**Risks and Discomforts**

It is possible that your privacy will be broken if someone in the focus group shares information with people outside of the focus group. We will ask you and other focus group members to keep the discussion private (so to not share with others what we talk about in the meeting), but we cannot guarantee this will happen.

It also is possible that a question we ask might make you feel uncomfortable. If this happens, you can skip the question, leave the discussion board and not answer the question, or stop being in the focus group completely.

**Benefits**

We don't know if you will benefit from being part of the study, but your participation is important. It will help us design a better bullying prevention program for middle school students in the future.

### **Confidentiality**

To protect your privacy in the focus group, we will ask you to use a different name that is not your real name. If you are part of an online community, think about using a different user name here.

We will keep a copy of your answers after the focus group ends so that we can look at them later. Only Dr. Ybarra and people who work with her will be able to see your answers. Your name and contact information will be kept separate from your responses in the focus group. We will not tell your parents or anyone else outside of the research team what you say during the focus group.

### **Rights of Refusal and Withdrawal**

It is your choice to take part in the focus group or not. If you decide not to be in the focus group, nothing bad will happen.

Do you have any questions about the information that I just read to you, or about the study?

If you have questions about this study later, please contact the study coordinator via email at [Tonya@InnovativePublicHealth.org](mailto:Tonya@InnovativePublicHealth.org) or phone at 877-302-6858, ext. 1-806. You can also contact the Principal Investigator, Dr. Michele Ybarra (email: [Michele@innovativepublichealth.org](mailto:Michele@innovativepublichealth.org); telephone: 877-302-6858, ext. 1-801).

If you have any concerns about your rights in this research, please contact the Study Subject Adviser at Chesapeake IRB by email at [adviser@chesapeakeirb.com](mailto:adviser@chesapeakeirb.com). The adviser can be contacted by calling toll free at 1-877-992-XXXX. An IRB is a group of people who review studies to protect your safety.

Do you agree to participate in this study?

**[If yes, agrees to assent]:**

Great!

**[If no, does not assent]:**

Thank you for your time. We respect your decision not to take part in the focus group. To help us design future focus groups, can you please tell me why you decided not to take part?