



Chair Rob Wagner and members of the Committee on Education

SB 489 – A Strong NO on allowing school districts to collaborate and enter into agreements with law enforcement and providers of social media websites to catch cyberbullying.

We are families representing nine levels of education, five school districts, and both private and public schools. It is disturbing that sponsors think it is acceptable to spy on private online student information in searching for acts of cyberbullying. Is this not unlawful search and seizure without due cause and a warrant? Is not this the same unlawful disclosure of private information being fought on the federal level? It sets up a system of guilt until proven innocent.

The bill also directs the Department of Education to conduct an evaluation to identify methods for reducing incidences of cyberbullying duplicating other statutes. Statute already provides for a task force to implement programs and other initiatives that are aimed at the prevention of acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying and that involve school employees, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, guardians, law enforcement and community representatives. As you can see, the law already builds on a preventive program to curtail cyberbullying.

With adequate statutes already in place, there is no justification to violate student privacy and law enforcement should remain focused on pursuing violators. We urge a NO vote on SB 489.

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