

March 2, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education, My name is Heather Zimmer, and I am a parent of two recent high school graduates from Lincoln High School.

I support HB 2631, which prescribes notification requirements for school districts upon receipt of an act of harassment, bullying, or cyberbullying. I am doing so on behalf of Carson Bride and his family.

My child, an IEP student, was also a victim of bullying at school and attempted suicide. The hospital psychiatrist confirmed that culminating event that led to his attempted suicide was while on the bus, kids threw tangerines at him and yelled homophobic slurs. There should be mandatory reporting to these events' parents, ***especially*** if the child has an IEP. My other child called 911 when he found him and is profoundly affected by this disturbing experience. Fortunately, we were able to intervene and get him help.

Tom and Kristin Bride are now advocating for OUR children. Please help to prevent another family from going through this horrendous experience. HB 2631 ensures that more parents do not lose the opportunity to help support their children through their most vulnerable years.

Please pass HB2631!

Thank you,

Heather Zimmer