

Chair Bynum and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of HB 2546. My name is Chad Miller and I am the father of Tyler Miller, and husband of Dionne Miller who have both offered their testimony to you today.

I simply want to reiterate how helpless me and my family felt during the investigative process the Salem-Keizer School District conducted to verify the incident that changed my son's life and confirmed a culture that was not healthy for kids to play sports in.

The school district, upon finding out about the incident and ongoing harassing behavior, befriended us for trust, information and cooperation then stonewalled us from receiving any information that would help my son feel safe in sports, at his new school and at social events.

That vague email my wife, I, and Tyler received after we offered full cooperation and faith in the process offered us zero answers. In fact, prior to involving Mrs. Swanson, we did not even get responses to our inquiries as to what was next. What was the school going to do to make our kids feel safe .

Their ability to use FERPA, disciplinary records and educational records as reasons to not give us peace of mind or closure was self-serving to the school district and favored the kids that committed the grievous act.

As Tyler and Dionne have stated, it has been a roller coaster and we still have no closure. We are appreciative that the Department of Education took on our appeal but due to the file being the most voluminous in content, it has taken years for them sort through the details.

Having an avenue for cause of action of injunctive relief early in the process would have offered us information early so that we could go about our lives with a sense of closure.

Thank you for your consideration of supporting HB 2546. Future victims will surely benefit from the passing of the bill.