

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Maureen Mulcahy and I am a parent of a 14 yr old high school freshmen residing in Clackamas County. I am writing in support HB 2631 which prescribes notification requirements for school districts upon receipt of an act of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying.

HB 2631 is very important to me as I am close to 3 families whose children have been victims of bullying. One of those children, Carson Bride, took his life this summer. In both his case and the 2 other families, the response from the school districts was completely inadequate.

This issue must be addressed;

- Without this law, school districts are **not** required to notify parents of students who are victims and aggressors in incidents of harassment and bullying.
- Research shows that peer harassment leads to depression, decreased self-worth, hopelessness and loneliness which contribute to suicidal thoughts and actions. *(There are so many bullying studies and statistics to reference!)*
- If parents are not informed about their child's involvement in bullying at school as either the victim or aggressor, they will not be able to provide needed mental health support.

Although my daughter seems to be happy and doing well, I constantly worry about her and other children at her school. This has been such a hard year for them. They have lost contact with their peers and are without the benefit of their sports teams. This circumstance has revealed how fragile teenagers are and how difficult it is for them to communicate directly about their feelings. It is the job of parents and law makers to protect them. Please, please pass HB2631

Sincerely,

Maureen M Mulcahy  
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