

February 27, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Colleen Sze and I am a parent of 2 children 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 important to me because research proves that bullying leads to depression, decreased self-worth, and even suicide, especially in teens. Without this required communication from Oregon schools, parents are left in the dark regarding the true status of their child's mental health.

My children attend public school in Lake Oswego because we believe in the mission of the system to educate the whole child. A strong partnership between home and school is required in order for this goal to be achieved. When vital information from either party is not proactively shared, there is a delta in the collective understanding of the child's overall wellbeing, the partnership is degraded, and we fail our children.

Passing HB 2631 will help ensure that communication regarding the state of our children's mental health flows freely between school and home.

Sincerely,

Colleen Sze

Clackamas County, Oregon