

February 23, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Suzanne Zurasky, and I am a parent of 3 children residing in Multnomah County. I am writing in support of 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:

- 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.

My daughter and her classmates have been deeply affected by the suicide of a classmate over the summer who was the subject of chronic harassment and bullying. Only in the aftermath did we find out how this student had been tormented by others and how helpless some of his classmates felt in school and after his death. Please support this bill which hopefully will save future students from feeling so worthless and hopeless and families from being uninformed and unable to help.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Zurasky, M.D.

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