

Date: February 21, 2021

Re: HB 2631

To: Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Jody Duncan, and I am the parent of a 16-year-old daughter. We live in Clackamas County. I am writing in support HB 2631 which prescribes notification requirements for school districts upon receipt of report of an act of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying.

HB 2631 is important to me because:

- Individual schools currently have varying levels of intervention when bullying occurs. This law will at least prescribe a common-sense, minimum required level of intervention.
- We (parents, educators, and legislators) have a responsibility to address our nation's rising culture of incivility, bullying and violence.
- While statistics report 1 in 5 children being bullied, bullying affects all youth, including those who are bullied, those who bully others, and those who witness bullying. The effects of bullying continue into adulthood.
- Without this law, school districts are **not** required to notify parents of students who are victims and aggressors in incidents of harassment and bullying. If parents are not informed, they are unable to provide needed emotional support and take steps to stop the bullying.

Many states have already taken the lead creating and implementing policies that Oregon can learn and benefit from. See stopbullying.gov, a federal government website managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sincerely,

Jody Duncan
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