

Feb. 22, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

I am a parent of two 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 ( *some ideas below*):

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 best friends son ended his life due to cyberbullying in 2020. It all came down to one simple thing: his school ignored the clear and obvious bullying and did nothing to reprimand the abusers and made him, the victim, feel like he should just ignore them. I was absolutely outraged. This can be dealt with, but first the school system **MUST** be accountable!

Sincerely,

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