

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Cathie Gay and I am a parent of 3 children residing in Multnomah 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:

- 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.
- Our community has experienced the loss of a teenager from suicide, which resulted from excessive bullying. The parents had not been informed that this bullying was occurring even though school faculty members were aware. If they had been made aware the parents could have sought the support their son needed and perhaps prevented his unnecessary death. Please help to ensure that this sort of incident is prevented from occurring in the future by supporting HB 2631.

Sincerely,

Cathie Gay
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