

Good afternoon Chair Alonso Leon and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Wynter Nichols and I am a parent of 2 adult children and 1 high school student in Clackamas County. I support HB 2631 which prescribes notification requirements for school districts upon receipt of a report of an act of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying.

I thought my older two students escaped their high school years without experiencing bullying... until this last Christmas vacation when I learned that one of my children was severely bullied by a few classmates in high school. Instead of telling us, they thought they could just suck up and endure it until graduation. This was done partly to not worry or stress us out. I also think the possibility of retaliation or more embarrassment if we were involved helped played into the decision to keep us in the dark. What should have been a glorious senior year was an endurance trial instead.

The school may not have known of the bullying of my older child, we will never know for certain. I want to be assured that if my youngest child ever is bullied or bullies another child, we will be immediately notified so we can take appropriate steps as a family to help them work through it. This law will give me confidence we will be provided the crucial information needed to intervene.

The teenage years are hard enough in the best of situations. Please do everything you can as legislators to reverse the trend some districts have of keeping parents in the dark when bullying occurs. At least the mental health and at most the lives of our precious children are at stake.

Respectfully,

Wynter Nichols
Mulino, Oregon