

March 1, 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Tracy Scharfstein and I am a parent of 2 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:

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 dear friends lost their 16 year old son in June 2020 due to the lack of communication from his school regarding 2 years of ongoing bullying and harrassment. Please don't let this happen to any other family. Pass the bill!

Sincerely,

Tracy Scharfstein

52 Touchstone

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