

As a parent of high school students and a member of the Riverdale School District Community, I am writing to urge you to pass HB 2631.

Our school community lost one of our students to suicide last year due to cyberbullying and bullying. The parents were not notified of any issues related to how their son was being mistreated, that he had been cyberbullied. The parents were unaware, and therefore they didn't have a chance to respond, to get him help, to change his environment, to work with the school leaders to educate and change the school culture, to save their son's life.

Carson Bride is not the only victim of bullying. We need to do everything we can to protect our children from harming themselves. We have to know what is happening to them when they are at school, in an environment where learning and social-emotional growth is taking place. We, as parents entrust our schools to care for our children, when they are in their care. That trust must involve communication. Teachers and administrators know that what happens at home affects the school learning environment. And the same must be said that what happens at school does affect our student's life and well being outside of school hours. The communication must flow both ways.

Please pass HB 2631 so that schools must report harrasment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying. Each life is precious and must be protected during these vulnerable teen years.