

Submitter: Dana Stroud
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3584

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a parent in the Gresham-Barlow School District to urge you to please support HB 3584. As family, it is critically important that we mandate timely communication regarding school lockdowns.

It is important for families to know about school lockdowns because it directly affects the safety and well-being of their children who are attending school. School lockdowns are a safety measure that schools may take in response to a threat or emergency situation. They are scary and generally considered traumatic. For some, it is re-traumatizing. As a person working to finalize my masters as a therapist I am keenly interested in community safety including mental health of our youth, I believe this bill to be an important one.

When a school goes into lockdown, access to and from the school is restricted, and students and staff are required to shelter in place until the situation is resolved. During a lockdown, parents may not be able to access the school, pick up their children, or communicate with them directly. If parents are aware of a lockdown situation, they can take appropriate action to ensure the safety of their children. This type of communication can also allow for families to make more informed decisions and take appropriate action to ensure the psychological safety of their children after an emergency situation occurs. For some students, especially re-traumatized students, this is critical. We are limited in how we can support our children if the school does not give us adequate communication.

I urge you to ask districts to use appropriate trauma-informed lenses during times of communication. Trauma-informed policies aim to create a safe and supportive environment that promotes healing and recovery for individuals who have experienced trauma. This can include policies that prioritize safety, minimize re-traumatization, and promote empowerment and resilience. Other practices that schools can adopt to assist in promoting healing and empowerment from a trauma-informed lens could include: (1) Providing trauma-informed training for staff, including teachers, counselors, and administrators, to help them understand the impact of trauma and how to respond to students who have experienced trauma. (2) Implementing trauma-sensitive disciplinary policies that avoid punitive measures and focus on addressing the underlying causes of behavior. (3) Creating a culture of safety and trust that prioritizes the needs of individuals who have experienced trauma; (4) Providing access to trauma-informed services, such as counseling and

support groups, to individuals who have experienced trauma.

Thank you for all that you do to keep our youth safe. It's critical work and your residents appreciate you!

Dana Stroud