



March 22, 2017

Dear Chair Doherty and members of the House Committee on Education,

Ceasefire Oregon strongly supports House Bill 2649 that will track instances of harassment and bullying at Oregon schools. This data could provide insights into reducing bullying behavior.

While the majority of students who are bullied will not turn to violence, we must work to understand the small minority who do make the decision to become violent. As we have witnessed in Oregon and throughout the United States, violence at schools impacts us all.

According to an American Academy of Pediatrics study, "... 20 percent of high school students reported being victims of bullying. Those who were bullied were more likely to be in lower grades, females and white. **They also were more likely to carry a weapon to school than kids who were not bullied (8.6 percent vs. 4.6 percent).**" [Emphasis Ceasefire Oregon.]

Better data about bullying will lead to more effective responses for counseling perpetrators as well as victims.

Ceasefire Oregon urges you to support House Bill 2649. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony support of House Bill 2649.

Sincerely,

Penny Okamoto  
Executive Director  
Ceasefire Oregon

Scores of Bullying Victims Bringing Weapons to School, Andrew Adesman, MD, FAAP; Lana Schapiro, MD, FAAP, American Academy of Pediatrics Press release, May 4, 2014. Retrieved March 22, 2017 from:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/pages/Scores-of-Bullying-Victims-Bringing-Weapons-to-School-.aspx>

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Friends don't help friends commit suicide. Lock your guns. Always.

