

May 16th 2021

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Education,

My name is Kirk MacDowell. I am a former Police Officer and proud parent of two young men who attended Lake Oswego High School. I reside in Lake Oswego, Clackamas County, Oregon. 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 as it will direct the school district to notify a parent or guardian if bullying is reported. On a personal note, Carson Bride committed suicide on June 23rd 2020. It was later discover that he was mercilessly bullied while attending high school. The Bride family lives 6 homes away from us. Carson's mother called my wife within minutes of discovering Carson's body sobbing uncontrollably. In my career, I have seen death, I have helped saved people from death, and I know the grieving that parents and loved ones experience when a loved one dies. Fatal car accidents, killer devastating fires and murders all produce fatalities, but nothing hits home more that suicide. My experience has demonstrated that many suicides can be prevented with early intervention and professional help. We just need to make sure that our children have that opportunity-to live a life.

HB 2631 will save lives. Iv'e seen too many suicides; we should do everyone in our power to make sure that parents and children don't suffer the horror that the Bride family experienced.

Please do let me know if I can provide additional information and or testimony. I can think of no higher cause that to save a Childs life.

Sincerely,  
Kirk MacDowell  
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