

I am writing in support of HB 2631 which prescribes notification requirements for school districts upon receipt of an act of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. Actually, I am aghast that this policy isn't already in place in every school in the country.

I am a parent of three children and live in Multnomah County. For the past fifteen years I have dropped my kids off at school in the morning always assuming that I would be notified by the school if they were being bullied or harassed. Why on earth is this not the case? Giving the parents a heads-up gives them the opportunity to get help or support for the kid that could be a life-saver. My friend Kristin Bride lost her sixteen year old son Carson to suicide last year - he had been bullied and harassed at school for a long time but the parents were not told about it. With such a tragic event it is hard to ponder the 'what ifs' without wanting to scream and shout. Please, let this letter be my scream and shout – give parents the peace of mind that they will be told if something is witnessed so they can support their student with what they need – the potential to save a life is far too vital to not pass HB 2631.

Thank-you,

Sarah Wright