

Dear Chair Huebert, Vice Chair Dietrich and other members of the Education Committee,

My name is Trish Hileman, I am a parent of 5 children 4 of whom attend USD 259 schools. I wanted to write in support of HB 2330 a bill to ensure that each District in Kansas creates and enforces procedures around communicating to families about instances of bullying and also to ensure that instances of bullying, harassment or assault are investigated within their domains.

I would like to believe that every time an incident of bullying happens it is dealt with in a fair and efficient manner by our public schools, and I believe for the vast majority of cases this is true. But I also know that policy and transparent communication around these difficult subjects can be powerful tools schools can use to get community/family support in curbing bullying. I would like the public to have the opportunity to speak about their experiences at School Board Meetings (part of the bill that would have it addressed at 2 meetings- hopefully outside consent). This bringing the issue and seeing trends, whether rising or falling would be a good discussion for our policy makers to have in front of our communities.

I am not personally certain if the exact time frames (24 hours, 2 days etc.) are reasonable considering every instance is not going to be an authentic case of bullying- BUT I think whether the case is deemed credible or not the student/family should be heard and a process followed because the student may be communicating another need that must be addressed for health of the student. We are not always good at listening to children and discerning the cause of their distress, but ensuring that every case is listened to may help curb teen suicide, self-injurious behavior and depression.

Ensuring that every District in Kansas whether they deem bullying to be a concern or not to create procedure which communicates their instances and investigates accusations in a timely manner seems like a good use of your body's time and energy.

I am available should a member of your body want to further discuss my thoughts on this issue.

Trish Hileman

139 S. Fountain

Wichita, KS 67218

316-239-6501

Patricia.hileman@sbcglobal.net