

BILL052(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 487

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 2, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Celia Valenzuela	Email: ccabanilla28@hotmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 08:27 AM

Testimony:

I am submitting a testimony on behalf of my 7 year old daughter. At the age of 6 years old, she had experienced a form of bullying at her dance class out of school where some of the students in her class told her that she is not part of their group and made her feel unwelcomed. I knew something was wrong when her demeanor became quiet and that she verbalized that she didn't want to talk about it. When she was comfortable to talk about it, she expressed how sad and hurt she was and tearing to where she stated that she didn't want to go to class anymore because of how she described the students as "mean girls."

Name: Allison Mawae	Email: amawae3@gmail.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 2, 2022 @ 09:47 AM

Testimony:

I am testifying on behalf of my daughter who experienced bullying in her school when she was in Kindergarten. At the time, she had a phase where she loved to wear dresses and skirts to school as she was very girly and enjoyed dressing up. Throughout the 2nd quarter, it was a struggle to get her to go to school because she said she was being teased by one female student in particular. I had brought it to the attention of her teacher and counselor, in which they did meet and speak with the student and her parent(s), but because her parents were military, not too much had happened aside from the fact that this girl was exemplifying some sort of attention deficit. My daughter was not the only student to have experienced this bullying, nearly 25% of the class (specifically the girls) have also experienced it. As much as I had encouraged other parents to speak up, it seemed they all had the same lack of faith as I did in the staff, and that not much else could be done aside from constantly complaining to the teacher and counselor.

As time passed, I did notice Lilynoe was happier about going to school; when asked, she said it's because the girl was no longer bothering her and her friends. It was nice to know that the issue had finally been addressed, but to have to constantly nag staff due to limitations that even they are obligated to follow made things difficult for weeks.

I am hoping that with this Bill being passed, school and other programs/organizations will making anti-bullying promotion more widely known and acceptable with REAL life consequences. Sadly, it only worsens when these type of bullies become adults; the issue needs addressing at an early age, and more parent involvement needs to be enforced when their child/ren are involved.