

Please pass bill 278

Hi my name is Rick Morawitz. Today I'm going to be speaking to you about Rhianna Morawitz. I was her Proud Father. My daughter passed away earlier this year on September 21. My daughter was only 14 years old. She was the girl that committed suicide in Wichita due to being bullied in school. You may have heard about her on the news or read about her in the paper. There was also quite a bit of discussion about her on a couple of our local radio stations in Wichita. As I speak about Rhianna today I would like for everyone in here to think about their own children and grandchildren being bullied or harassed on a daily basis at school. Now I would like you to picture some of these things happening to them. Being spit on or having their head smashed into a locker. Having a cupcake smashed on their head while the other kids and a lunch aid just stand there and laugh. Being abused every day. These are just some of the things we as a family had to deal with. I could go on and on if I had the time. Nothing that the schools did ever seemed to help. If anything sometimes they made it worse. Some people seem to think that if you take a couple kids into a room and talk to them the problem is solved. When in all reality my daughter just got it worse for telling on them. My daughter would beg us not to go to the school when something happened because of all the repercussion from the other kids. She eventually just started keeping all her problems bottled up inside until she could not take it anymore. After another day of bullying at school Rhianna came home and put a belt around her neck. My wife found her hanging in her own closet. It scared my wife so bad she could not even lift her. She wet her pants trying. She screamed for me and I ran in there and helped get her down. I immediately started mouth to mouth and CPR. But it was too late. The first time I blew in her mouth I forgot to pinch her nose and a bunch of her body fluids came out and covered my glasses and face. Sometimes I still get that taste in my mouth. Picture going through this with someone in your own family. Times of changed and so should the laws. With the help of my cousin Dee we started an online petition through change .org that we called Rhiannas law. Between the online petition and the hand written signatures we have had over 7.000 people sign. Some changes need to be made and made now. From my point of view, the system has forgetting about the good kids like Rhianna who enjoyed school, made good grades and enjoyed the actives in several school programs. I can't imagine how anybody with any kind of heart would try and stop this bill from passing. It would help the school staff and students. It may cause someone some extra paperwork but you have to ask yourself what is a human life worth? How much abuse are you willing to let a student or teacher go through? My daughter's life was worth a lot more to us than some paper work. Bullying is treated different at every school. All schools need to follow the same state guide lines. The principle and teachers at every school need to be accountable for our children. There should be consequences just like a lawyer or doctor or anyone else faces that is licensed by the state if they choose to ignore laws. They should not get a free pass. They should do the job they are paid to do. Please pass bill #278.

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