

January 24, 2012

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to you on behalf to State of Kansas Senate Bill No. 278, in regards to Rhianna Morawitz.

I was born with a red birthmark on half my face and grew up experiencing how mean and cruel kids are. Even adults due to the ignorance and lack of respect of the world today, hence teaching their kids what? I have experienced the death of a friend because he was different. He had the biggest heart, liked everyone he met, never saw him mean to anyone! But because of bullying he took a shotgun and ended his life.

Over the past decade I have watched and listen to the issues of 'bullying' get worse and worse. I have had to hold my own children while they cry from the hurtful things that have been said and done to them. Apply ice packs to the physical wounds that have been inflicted. My youngest (9 years old) does not understand why kids behave like this, because she has been brought up to be nice to everyone. My oldest (14 years old) has friends in every 'click' because he has been taught that everyone is the same.

I believe that the punishment outlined in the purposed law is adequate for elementary school kids! That at a young age they can still be taught. But the middle school and high school age kids just don't care. They know that there isn't that much the school can do. The parent must be brought in and made to understand the severity of their child's actions. Financial punishment will affect the parents also. It may make the parent be more inclined to work with their children; to teach them to be more responsible, respectable and productive citizens of society. Maybe a punishment of community service in a "bully chain gang", served in public eye to discourage these actions. These "bully's" are the people that are going to grow up and be the future of our country? For me that is a scary thought.

We should not care if the racial makeup is black, brown, red, yellow, or white. We should not care if your origins are African, Latin American, Asian, or European, or if your ancestors arrived here on the Mayflower or on slave ships. We should not care what the sexual orientation of another person is. The only identity we should care about is ones own individual identity -- ones own character, ones own scholarship, ones own humanity. Not another person!

Sincerely,



Denise Repp