

Testimony before the
Senate Education Committee

on

SB 333

by

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February 8, 2018

Madam Chair: Baumgardner

I stand in support of Senate Bill 333.

As an educator, I am very much in favor of this act. Bullying, specifically cyber bullying, has reached a point to where it is affecting far too many students and their ability to succeed in our classrooms. And sadly, many of these bullying incidents result in suicide.

However, in specific reference to the amendments, I disagree that only a portion of the staff should receive the prevention training. We are a small school with only 700 students district-wide. Every employee in our district has some type of interactions with our students, from our paraprofessionals to our secretaries; from our bus drivers to our custodians; from our maintenance crew to our assistant coaches.

I know in our building, our head custodian has more in-depth conversations with students than most teachers do. Same with our bus drivers. Everyone in our district should be trained on how to recognize signs of suicidal thoughts and tendencies and know how to help prevent these tragedies.