

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter supporting HB1282. In order to understand the gravity of posting fight videos, you must put yourself in the place of the victim. A fight happens, school ends for the day, and the involved children go home. Principal calls the parents of each child to notify them of the event, and if their child hit back, their punishment. That's the end of the story, right? No, it's only the beginning because somebody chose to video the assault and post it on social media. Now the event is completely revived becoming entertainment in the virtual world which spans, not only to their own school, but to endless schools. Now the views begin, one after another, after another, then it's shared again and again. Because of it being online, edits can be made like adding music, making it slow motion or adding color. These views are followed by RELENTLESS comments. These comments are not going through a paper shredder, as they are being viewed by the victim. Next the chats begin. Kids set up various chats, invite the victim and the comments continue. Now the child goes to school the next day, the comments are made directly to them. This could quickly cause a child to spiral into depression because the event is still happening. Had no one videoed the event, it would have died down substantially after the end of the school day. When a child decides to record an event that depicts harm to another, their must be repercussions for the person that made that decision. Once it becomes normal to punish this behavior, postings will dramatically decrease.