

Re: H.B. 8 - Prohibit Disclosing Injuries to Minors in School Vehicles

Dear Representative Steve Hambley:

As a parent and a constituent, I am writing this letter in support of House Bill 8, which would redact the personal information of minors from public documents when involved in an accident while using school transportation.

During the fall of 2016, my 10-year old daughter was riding the bus on the way to school when the bus was involved in a minor accident. All students were checked out by first responders and fortunately, no injuries were found and all the students proceeded to school that day. Later that evening, when I came home from work, I discussed the accident with my daughter and confirmed that the accident was minor and that she and her schoolmates were all unharmed. At this point I thought the school bus accident was a non-issue because everybody was home safe and sound.

However, about a week after the accident, I started to receive unsolicited letters from lawyers looking to represent my daughter in any lawsuit that I might file involving the accident. I was not surprised at receiving the letters because I knew police reports are public records. What did surprise me was these letters all contained my ten 10-year old daughter's full name, address, phone number and date of birth. This information being included on the police report involving a minor riding a school bus shocked me. If lawyers can easily access this information, what's stopping child predators, identity thieves and other criminals from using this personal information? And as a recent victim of identity theft, I am particularly sensitive to personally identifiable information being used and the time and effort it takes to fix one's stolen identity.

I believe a viable solution would be to enact House Bill 8, which would redact the minor's personal information from public records.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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