

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 26, 2013

Dear Leslie Middle School and Columbia Educational Designs:

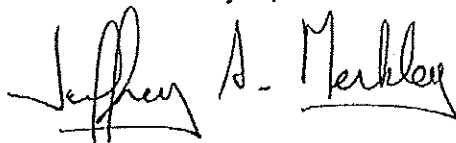
Here in Oregon, bullying is one of the leading causes of death for our youngest generation. This is unacceptable.

I applaud Columbia Educational Designs for developing this new program to help combat the bullying epidemic. It has been shown to decrease bullying by 25-50% in its first year alone, and could be one solution to this national problem.

I also want to acknowledge the school leadership here at Leslie Middle School for bringing the Zero program to Oregon. Thank you for recognizing the need for a program like this in our schools, and for stepping up to make a difference that could save a life. Your leadership on this important issue will not only have a great impact on the students here at Leslie Middle School, but could serve as a springboard for the rest of the country.

Bullying is not a one dimensional problem and therefore demands a systematic approach. I hope that the Zero program is a success here at Leslie Middle School, and I congratulate you all once again for your efforts to combat this national problem.

Thank you,



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator