Dear

I want to be confident that all students are treated with respect and compassion, however, I noticed that your school bullying policies do not protect all children. I am calling on you to add weight-based bullying language to your student code of conduct to ensure that all children can participate in a positive learning environment without the fear of bullying based on their weight.

Childhood obesity is the most common chronic disease of childhood. It affects more than 30 percent of children in the U.S. Ninety-two percent of children report witnessing their peers affected by obesity and excess weight being teased at school. Fifty-eight percent of boys and 63 percent of girls in high school experience daily teasing, bullying or rejection because of their size.

Negative attitudes toward children with obesity begin as early as pre-school, and it may worsen as children age, leading to increased incidences of bullying in our schools. Students affected by obesity are often stigmatized and excluded from their peers' social activities. Due to this, children affected by obesity miss more school days than their peers. More concerning, children and teens who are victims of bullying may have thoughts of suicide, and some may actually commit suicide.

We need to stop weight bias, as it is a significant issue affecting our children's learning experience and overall wellbeing. Therefore, I insist you add weight-based bullying language to your student code of conduct to protect our children from the harmful effects of weight bias. All students, regardless of size, deserve to feel protected and respected in the classroom.

Sincerely,