



CITY OF BEND

February 7, 2023

LOCATION

710 NW Wall Street
Downtown Bend

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 431
Bend, OR 97709

PHONE

(541) 388-5505
Relay Users Dial 7-1-1

FAX

(541) 385-6676

WEB

bendoregon.gov

MAYOR

Melanie Kebler

MAYOR PRO TEM

Megan Perkins

CITY COUNCILORS

Anthony Broadman
Barb Campbell
Ariel Méndez
Megan Norris
Mike Riley

CITY MANAGER

Eric King

House Committee on Education
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Hudson, Vice-Chair Wright, and members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Bend City Council to state our emphatic support for House Bill 3101. Bend is no stranger to gun violence, and we have heard directly from our students and young people about their concerns when it comes to feeling safe at school. It's important to us as a Council to support common sense state laws that promote safety in our community.

Alyssa's Law is ultimately a bill about school safety. The bill empowers all K-12 public grade schools to consider installing silent panic alarms in case of an emergency. Those panic buttons would automatically alert first responders, and provide geolocation information so they can quickly respond to the right place within minutes. When a medical emergency or a violent event happens at our schools, those minutes can make the difference between life and death.

Bend-La Pine School District enrolled over 18,000 students for the 2022-2023 school year, spanned across 33 area schools. Most of those students live within the City of Bend. A few are children of our Bend City Councilors. I know that our District strongly values student safety and is a leader in our region when it comes to implementing smart security measures. As a parent and an elected leader, I know I want to do everything in my power to ensure that our schools have a full range of options to keep our community's children safe, including advocating for policies like Alyssa's Law.

Installing panic alarms in every school across Deschutes County will not guarantee student safety. It will, however, add to the toolkit we've already deemed necessary – a toolkit that includes training, and drills, and educator time devoted to addressing school safety. House Bill 3101 fills in a critical, missing piece that empowers educators and students to get help quickly when they need it most, and in a way that shares instant, accurate information. We ask the Committee to support Alyssa's Law, move HB 3101 forward, and advocate for schools to be supported with the funding and resources they will need to implement it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'MK', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melanie Kebler
Mayor, City of Bend