

Submitter: Brandy Steelhammer
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3101

As a lifelong Oregonian who has experienced the devastating loss of 5 fellow Oregonians to gun violence, and as a mom, I urge you to pass HB 3101. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for American children and teens. It is America's shameful reality. Just yesterday I received a text along with thousands of parents in Bend informing us that our children were in lockdown. Thankfully it was a false threat, but the emotional toll on our community is palpable, heightened by Bend's Safeway shooting in August. In his manifesto, the young shooter said his original target was a Bend high school.

I know the shock, horror and trauma of a school shooting and the ripple effects it causes. In 1998 my high school, Thurston, was the site of a school shooting. While my brother and I had already graduated, we had relationships with many survivors and the deceased. It is an unimaginable horror.

HB 3101 can save lives. It is not a matter of IF, but WHEN, another school shooting will occur in Oregon. HB 3101 will help first responders make accurate, real-time decisions as they work as quickly as possible to save lives. The scourge of gun violence in American schools is putting undue responsibility and fear in our school teachers and administrators. They, and our children, NEED as much help as possible. HB 3101 is one very important tool that can save lives. Please support Alyssa's Law.

The following quotes are from my sons during their middle and high school years.
"Mom, if there's a shooter I hope I'm in IT class because there's an outside door and I can run home. If I'm in health, Mr.____ has a bat and he's going to get on the file cabinet next to the door. We're going to hide in this small area around the corner by the door. He's going to hit the shooter and we can run out. But, if I'm in Spanish or math class, I'm dead. I'll be upstairs and there is nowhere for me to go."
"If there's a school shooter I hope I'm in PE because I can hide behind the bleachers."
"Mr____ has a ladder so if there's a shooter we're going to break the window and get out."
"Tonight at the football game my friends and I were saying how easy it would be for someone to climb on the middle school roof and shoot all of us in the stands."
"Today during our drill for a school shooting, ____ got in trouble because he told the teacher it's completely stupid to think that we're going to sit in the back of the class and be quiet and just wait for someone to shoot through the door of our classroom. Like we are just going to sit there and wait to get killed. I can't believe he got in

trouble. He's right. There's no way I'm sitting there just waiting to die."

This is our children's reality. This is our school system's reality. We owe it to them to put every single resource we can toward helping them survive a school shooting. HB 3101 will do that. Please support this bill.