

Submitter: Kathryn Osborne  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3101

Chair Neron and Members of the Education Committee,  
My name is Kathryn Osborne and I live in Redmond, OR. I am submitting testimony in favor of HB 3101 also known as Alyssa's Law. This is an important tool in our toolbox for school safety and I urge the Education Committee to vote YES on HB 3101.

My 8 year old daughter attended a crafts and cocoa event for homeschooled children hosted at one of our local highschoools. As I pulled into the school parking lot to retrieve her from the event, I noticed swat vehicles and heavily armed officers. Police cars pulled in behind me barricading the driveway entrance. I was hurriedly directed around the back of the school where I was informed the school was locked down due to a potential shooter and my daughter was inside. My heart dropped. I understand the safety protocol for students, but these kids were visiting. How would they keep them safe? I was trapped in the parking lot unable to reach my child. But hundreds of others were outside the school grounds without information. The minutes ticked by at a torturous rate . Thankfully there was not a shooter. The teaching staff had hid our babies in a large storage closet with their hot cocoa and crafts. The kids were none the wiser. Quick thinking highschool students were able to share information with the public and families via social media. One amazing soul even responded to my social post that her friend was a teacher that was in the closet with my child and they were safe. I could breathe. Not long after, I watched as swat officers and teachers ran our little children out of the back of the building . That is when my daughter realized what was happening. We loaded up and we're escorted out of the barricades. In my rear view mirror I could see highschool students being quickly evacuated out of the school into back fields out of the sight of the terrified parents waiting outside the baracades. I did the only thing I knew to do..I rolled down my window and through my own tears of relief I drove slowly and yelled to the the other parents "they are all ok" . I could see the terror and tears turn to relief.

A year later, I am still traumatized. I have tears just sharing this abbreviated version. My daughter is now attending 4th grade classes at the school across the street from my home. She once asked me the best way to play dead incase of a real shooter. She dreams of having to get her brother out of their school and running him to safety and school counselors check in with her after each active shooter drill. The first one she participated in, choose, unfortunately in a bathroom alone. Instinctively she climbed on top of the toilet. The school gave her an award but cannot take away her fear.

Our children live in a different world than that in which we grew up. It is our duty to provide them with every tool we can to keep them safe. Not only will Alyssa's law help reduce law-enforcement response time to emergencies within our schools, I believe it can give just a bit of peace to those who send their children to school each day, and to those who need to attend the schools. It will provide some assurance to know that help will be on the way and to know our leaders are taking active steps to keep our children safe.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote yes.