

February 13, 2023

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

My name is Sara Foerster and I am a parent to two students in pre-school in Central Oregon, one entering Kindergarten this coming fall. I am testifying today in support of HB 3101, because I am tired of living in fear of sending my children to school. My children deserve to feel safe at school, and I should drop them off in confidence knowing absolutely everything is being done to preserve their health and safety. As a parent, there are so many things we need (and ought) to be worrying about, but whether their teachers and administration have the ability to respond quickly in case of emergency does not have to be one of them.

HB 3101, or Alyssa's Law, is named after Alyssa Alhadeff. Alyssa was 14 years old the last time she stepped into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland Florida. On Feb. 14th 2018, she was one of 17 people killed in that deadly shooting. After that horrific day, the school commissioned a report that found four key areas for improvement:

- 1) Identifying the threat as soon as possible
- 2) Notifying others of the threat
- 3) Implementing an effective response by those most vulnerable
- 4) Stopping the Threat

HB 3101 addresses these vulnerability gaps. Time = Life.

Oregon has taken many steps to prevent and stop the scourge of school shootings, but we do not have a clear and uniform policy for emergency management focused on early intervention. It is clear identifying these issues and implementing solutions will go a long way toward keeping our students, parents and educators safe in school.

HB 3101 reimagine's our school's safety in Oregon and addressed these vulnerability gaps. It is a mobile-based, silent panic alarm system that is installed on teachers and admin's phones, through opt-in, that allows teachers to alert either school admin or first responders through the press of a button. From a school shooting, down to an allergic reaction in the classroom, Alyssa's Law is a tool that will support the health and safety of our students, teachers, faculty, first responders, and parents.

The precious few seconds between life and death can be protected through passing this bill. Please join me in supporting HB 3101.

Thank you,

Sara Foerster
Bend, Oregon