

Submitter: Emerson Levy  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Education  
Measure: HB3101

Chair Neron, Vice Chair Hudson, Vice Chair Wright, Members of the Committee:

For the record my name is Emerson Levy, I am a State Representative for House District 53, and today I submit this testimony in support of HB 3101, not only as a member of this body, but also as June's mom and Auntie Em.

Today you will hear about Alyssa's Law, a law that would permit mobile based silent panic alarms in our K-12 schools. This is an important tool in our toolbox to address school safety and to be able to respond quickly to emergencies.

Alyssa's Law emerged from the Parkland School shooting, which tragically took the lives of 17 people, mostly students. One of those students was Alyssa. She was 14 years old. Today we have the honor of hearing from Alyssa's mom, Lori. On the eve of the fifth anniversary of the loss of her daughter, I cannot put into words my admiration in the ways that as a mother she has turned her pain into purpose.

Security experts hired to issue reports after these fatal events, whether Parkland or Texas, issue the same feedback. Those few seconds after an emergency are precious and vulnerable. There needs to be a unified communication system.

Alyssa's Law not only makes our schools more prepared for the worst case scenarios, but those everyday emergencies. We have learned from implementation in other states that 80 percent of the use of the mobile based app is for students having allergic reactions, seizures or heart conditions. The app can have a direct line to EMS, and can also provide important features like informing other staff to not change classes to allow space to clear the emergency.

I believe as lawmakers, as parents, and as community members we must do everything we can to keep our kids safe. I wish we could promise our kids a world without all the ills that find us, but I can't. But we can do better. Alyssa's Law is a common sense approach to safety and I believe it will save the lives of Oregonians, and urge your support.

Thank you.