

Paul L Evans
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 20



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 1, 2023

The Honorable Courtney Neron
State Representative
House Committee on Education

Ref: House Bill 3101

I write this letter in support of House Bill 3101 (HB 3101). The reality for faculty, staff, and students navigating the challenges of modern education – especially in public schools – is far different than when I attended. Most schools do not have to face eruptions of violence from students and/or those who seek to cause harm. All schools must be prepared to respond in a manner that emphasizes safety. HB 3101 is another tool in the toolbox we need to ensure the enhanced safety and security of our schools.

Truth be told, some schools have already taken steps forward in establishing a communications network for vital information exchange. However, others have yet to make that critical investment because of other pressing requirements for precious talent, time, and/or treasure. It is time we leveled the field: all schools should have an emergency notification network/system to share time-critical information during threatened or actual violence. Although it is a sad thing to have to mandate, it is a necessary tool for the realities of today's risk spectrum.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter. If you have questions or want additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul L. Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cc: State Representative Zach Hudson
State Representative Boomer Wright