

Submitter: Katelynn Bhatia
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB3101

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

My name is Katelynn Bhatia; I am a Bend resident, business owner, and parent to 2 children. I am testifying today in vehement support of HB 3101.

I live less than 2 blocks from the Safeway in Bend where the shooting took place this past summer. While sirens screamed by and police circled our block, I hugged my children tight. We felt safe in the confines of our home and I'd expect for my children to feel safe wherever they are in our community, especially within their school

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:

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

HB 3101 reimagines our school's safety in Oregon and addresses 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.

Let me be very clear on something: there are no cons here. No rights infringement. No opportunities for misuse. And no tradeoffs to be made. This is a simple solution that has the power to save our precious children's lives.

Sincerely,
Katelynn Bhatia