

Submitter: Debra Gaisford
On Behalf Of: Central Oregon Gun Safety Advocates
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3083

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3083, known as Alyssa's Law. Alyssa Alhadeff was a victim of the deadly school shooting in Parkland, Florida in 2018. At just 14 years old, her life was taken away from her because of the United States' lack of unified and comprehensive policy solutions to address school safety. Unfortunately, Alyssa is one of hundreds of students and faculty who have lost their life in school shootings.

As a parent of two school-aged children in Bend, I worry about my children's safety every day when they leave for school. Since the Columbine shooting in 1999, more than 360,000 children in the US have been exposed to gun violence while at school. Timely, emergency response can be the difference between life and death. HB 3803 urges school districts to implement silent, panic alert systems that connect directly to first responders and notify faculty throughout the building. This early intervention technology will empower teachers to protect themselves and their students, and ease parents' anxiety.

Similar policies have been successfully passed in many other states, including Florida, New York, New Jersey, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, and Oklahoma. In 2023, Oregon set aside \$2.5 million in funding for these devices. We need to educate school districts on the importance of this policy and encourage them to make a decision that can save lives. Our current district leaders are saying that the technology is "too expensive," but the money is there and waiting for their action.

We should not have to be scared that our children and community will be the next victims of gun violence. I urge the committee to pass this common sense bill and prioritize the safety of our students and teachers. The Legislature cannot wait until another innocent, young life is lost. We must act now.

Sincerely,
Deb Gaisford
Bend, OR