Emerson Levy
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
House District 53

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 3rd, 2025

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

For the record my name is Emerson Levy, I am the State Representative for House District 53, and today I am here to explain my support of HB 3083, not only as a member of this legislative body, but also as June's mom and Auntie Em.

Today you will hear about Alyssa's Law, a law that directs our K-12 schools to consider the use of a panic alarm device that alerts first responders in a life threatening emergency as part of their school safety plan. This is an important tool in our toolbox to address school safety and to be able to respond quickly to emergencies.

When reviewing policies and procedures relating to school building security, the governing body for a school shall consider the installation of a security system signal that is generated by the manual activation of a device intended to signal a life-threatening or emergency situation requiring a response from emergency medical services providers, law enforcement or firefighters.

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, who flew from Florida to be with us today. 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 brought this concept before your committee in 2023 and we had unified support. The concept stayed in Ways & Means as the Legislature adjourned for the year, but we were able to pass the necessary funding through House Bill 5014 . Through that budget bill, $2.5 million dollars was designated to the Oregon Department of Education's School Safety and Emergency Management (SSEM) program for the Wireless Panic Alarm Grant. This year, we need to take it a step further. From a student needing an EpiPen, to a natural disaster or man-made emergency, this legislation will give our school districts the ability to community more efficiently and effectively within the school campus and with first responders. In an emergency, every second counts.

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.

Emerson Levy,

State Representative, House District 53