

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HB96 STATE OPERATING BUDGET
PUBLIC TESTIMONY - LORI ALHADEFF
5/14/2025**

INTRODUCTION

Chairman Brenner, Vice-Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, my name is Lori Alhadeff. I am here today in support of including SB105 (Alyssa's Law) into your state budget, HB96. Alyssa's Law is sponsored by Sen. Reynolds, and would require and fund a wearable panic alert system for all schools in Ohio. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am here on behalf of *Make Our Schools Safe*, and most importantly, as a mother. My daughter, Alyssa, was only 14 years old when she was shot and killed in her English class during the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida in 2018.

BODY

Alyssa didn't have a chance. She wasn't alerted fast enough, students didn't know to go into their safety protocols, and it was too late. Had a lockdown been initiated sooner, our precious Alyssa might be with us today. This is why my husband, Dr. Ilan Alhadeff, and I have dedicated our lives to advocating for the best practices for school safety through critical legislation: Alyssa's Law.

The principle of Alyssa's Law is simple: **Time. Equals. Life.**

We need our kids and teachers to get to safety quickly and administrators to be immediately notified in any emergency. This law directs wearable panic alert devices that directly links to first responders in a life-threatening emergency.

When seconds matter, we need to empower our teachers to immediately connect to the help they need.

This technology will not and should not replace other safety measures—it enhances them. School safety requires a layered approach, and this solution connects the entire campus with multisensory notifications and alerts so that every student and classroom can move to safety. This would help not only during

active threat situations, which we all hope will never happen, but also during medical emergencies, weather events, and other essential lockdown notifications to keep our kids safe every day.

The need to equip our teachers and administrators with this technology is for more than just an active shooter.

EXAMPLES

I have heard stories about how this technology has saved lives across the country.

Recently in Alabama, a student had a seizure in class. The teacher quickly utilized the alert system to call administrators while focusing on assisting the student. The administrative team and medical staff reached her class within 1 minute, the student was quickly stabilized and later made a full recovery at the hospital.

In 2023 in Yakima, Washington, a shooting occurred near a high school. Within moments, multiple buildings were locked down using the multisensory notification system, ensuring students and staff could get inside to safety while law enforcement responded.

Another remarkable story was shared from Georgia where Alyssa's Law was just passed. A staff member was having a cardiac event and became incapacitated in her office, alone, after hours. With her emergency alert badge, she was able to call for help before losing consciousness. It alerted help to her exact location and they were able to knock down the door and offer lifesaving care. She is alive today because of this technology.

Time equals life.

Alyssa's Law was born out of the worst-case scenario, but these everyday occurrences are what Ohio schools need to be prepared for.

EMOTIONAL APPEAL

Alyssa was kind-hearted and a beautiful girl who should be enjoying college today. Alyssa was an outgoing person, while I have always been reserved and soft spoken. After losing her, I knew I had to be her voice. She has given me the

strength to be here today to ensure no parent goes through the pain of what my family and countless other families have endured.

CONCLUSION

I want to applaud Senator Reynolds and all co-sponsors for your proactive work to make schools safe in Ohio. Ohio could join eight other states in the country that have passed Alyssa's Law, setting a standard that children should be safe and thrive in schools.

I call on Ohio lawmakers to include funding for Alyssa's Law in their budget and continue to work diligently to make our schools safe. Thank you.