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TO: K-12 Subcommittee of the Senate Education Committee

FROM: Dr. Janelle Rivers, Education Advocacy Specialist

SUBJECT: H.3258 to acquire and implement mobile panic alert systems in all schools

March 18, 2026

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina supports requiring mobile silent panic alarm systems in all public schools because such systems have been widely credited with saving multiple lives and improving school safety. ¹

Laws of this type are known popularly as “Alyssa’s Law.” Alyssa Alhadeff was a 14-year-old student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who was killed by a lone shooter in the massacre on Valentine’s Day in 2018. Legislation that fits the description for Alyssa’s Law requires silent panic alarms that are directly linked to law enforcement for the purpose of reducing response times in case of any emergency. ²

Ten states (Florida, Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington) have already enacted some version of Alyssa’s Law, and Connecticut has passed a similar law. South Carolina is one of at least 16 other states that have bills pending to require mobile panic alert systems in all schools this year.³

The League of Women Voters of South Carolina respectfully requests that you issue a favorable report for H.3258 as an indicator of your continuing commitment to protect the students and employees who work in our public schools and your concern for public safety.

¹ Cowan, Kellie, Fox13 Tampa Bay: Hillsborough schools an early adopter of panic button credited with saving lives in Georgia. Retrieved March 12, 2025, from <https://www.fox13news.com/news/hillsborough-schools-early-adopter-panic-button-credited-saving-lives-georgia-school-shooting>

² Make Our Schools Safe website: <https://makeourschoolssafe.org/alyssas-law/>

³ HALO Smart Sensor website: <https://halodetect.com/blog/alyssas-law-guide/>

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Numerous school administrators and state lawmakers are seeing the wisdom of making these mobile panic alarms available in all schools under a title popularly known as “Alyssa’s Law.”