

Resolution for the Adoption of the Alyssa Law in California

WHEREAS there have been approximately 314 mass shootings in the United States in 2022¹, and over 27 school shootings that have killed or injured a total of over 83 people this year;

WHEREAS a report² from NPR finds that late response times in instances of school shootings and the lack of systems set up for effective communication have often had deadly consequences; a quote from Joseph Giacalone, an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, reflects on the shooting at Uvalde, TX, saying that more work needs to be done to address intelligence available to officers at these scenes; and

WHEREAS panic alarm systems³ created through the passage of the Alyssa Law (passed in New Jersey, Florida, and New York⁴) in response to the Parkland shooting in 2018 have helped protect student lives through a mobile app that distributes information about a fire, medical, police, or active shooter emergency to other cell phones connected to the same school safety network AND gives automatic access to additional information even if the person triggering the call can't -- the address of the school, a floorplan of the building, the best points of access, the number of students and teachers in the building, contact information of key school officials, and the layout of the entire school campus;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party calls upon the Governor and the California state legislature to adopt the Alyssa Law, which would require school district administrators to include information regarding the decision to install a panic alarm system in their school in their district-wide safety plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor and to members of the State Assembly and State Senate who represent any part of Santa Clara County.

Submitted by

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Adopted by the Youth Delegates and affirmed by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on July 7, 2022

Sources Used:

¹<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/24/1101050970/2022-school-shootings-so-far>

²<https://www.npr.org/2022/06/06/1102668326/uvalde-police-response-school-shootings>

³<https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-school-shooting-panic-button.html>

⁴<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S7132>