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Testimony of Rep. David Sinclair presenting

LD 168, An Act to Improve Safety in Public Schools by Requiring Silent Electronic Notification Systems in Classrooms *Before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs*

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, good morning. I am Rep. David Sinclair, proudly representing the people of the City of Bath, House District 50. I appreciate the opportunity to present **LD 168, An Act to Improve Safety in Public Schools by Requiring Silent Electronic Notification Systems in Classrooms.**

While campaigning last fall, I was asked by a constituent when Maine would implement “Alyssa’s Law,” which I had to admit never having heard of. I promised her I would learn more about it, and what I learned lead to my filing of this bill.

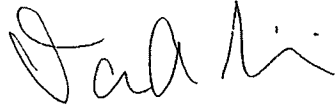
“Alyssa’s Law” is named after a young student, Alyssa Alhadeff, who, at age 14, was a victim of the 2018 shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The legislation, being adopted on a state-by-state basis, is intended to improve and accelerate law enforcement response times during emergencies at public schools, primarily through teacher-worn silent pushbutton alarms that directly notify local law enforcement agencies.

Thus far, versions of this legislation have been implemented in Florida, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, and Oklahoma, and implementations are in progress in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, and Mississippi – the system is a good idea, and one I hope we can bring to fruition here in Maine as well.

I learned this morning that there is a very similar bill, LD 808, filed by Rep. Mastraccio, to be heard before this Committee – I may have filed first, but Anne-Marie filed better, as her bill also includes important provisions related to training and stipulations regarding security data protections. I hope to return to testify in favor of LD 808 once that bill is set for hearing, and hope that at least one of these bills will receive strong Committee support.

Thank you for your time and consideration - I am happy to answer any questions committee members may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Sinclair". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Sinclair
State Representative