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## HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ENCOURAGED TO DOWNLOAD FREE UMERGENCY™ APP

Rise of School Shootings Have Ignited Fears Among Teens and Parents; College Students See Value in the Popular Safety Resource

Pacific Palisades, Calif., May 8, 2018 — As the U.S. continues to experience an increase in school-related shootings, teens and their parents are worried about campus safety.

A recent survey by the <u>Pew Research Center</u> found that most teens and their parents are fearful that a shooting can occur at school, with 20 percent of 13- to 17-year-olds extremely worried about the possibility of gun violence erupting on campus.

"School-related shootings have increased dramatically over the last decade prompting students and parents to take advantage of Umergency as a resource to help them stay prepared if and when a crisis occurs," said Gail Schenbaum, co-founder of Umergency™, the all-in-one safety app that helps students and families navigate through any emergency, health or safety situation. "While no app can prevent a shooting from happening, being prepared for any emergency, whether it's an active shooter or a visit to the ER, certainly will help students and their families stay connected with all the resources needed at their fingertips."

Targeted primarily for college families, Umergency™ is ideal for graduating high school seniors who soon will be making the leap to higher education. Free for students and available for download on both Android and iOS devices, Umergency offers a variety of pre-populated on- and off-campus resources, including an Urgent Alert beacon that notifies trusted contacts when immediate help is needed, along with the student's GPS location.

As fears about school safety grow across America, an increasing amount of collegians and their families are downloading Umergency.

"My favorite thing about Umergency is that it makes me feel so secure on campus," said Katie Parzych, a student at the University of Connecticut. "My parents love the app because they were a little nervous sending me away to college, but now they know that I'm going to be prepared no matter what, and that they will be contacted if anything happens."

"Umergency benefits everyone, college students and parents. You never know what type of situation you might be in, so anyone can use it," added Anna Lusnia of the University of South Florida.

"It [Umergency] gives you the ability to have control of situations before it escalates," said Patrick Maruffi who is studying communications at Ithaca College.

"I can honestly say it is one of the most helpful resources for me on campus, and my mom loves the app too," said Jacob LaPrade, a student at Stonehill College. "She feels more comfortable knowing that if I'm ever in a situation where I need some help, I can connect with her and my roommates just by clicking the Urgent Alert button."

(more)

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Umergency also includes an "I am safe" function that alerts trusted contacts when the student is okay, as well as the ability to upload and share a secure copy of the student's health insurance card. A digital medical consent form allows the student's trusted friends and family to speak with medical personnel. Additionally, the app provides built-in access to three of the most used national crisis hotlines, including suicide, sexual assault and poison control.

"The transition from high school to college is both exciting and challenging, and Umergency can be a valuable tool for high school seniors that empowers them to take control of their safety, while giving their parents sorely needed peace of mind," added Schenbaum.

## **About Umergency™**

Umergency is an emergency, health and safety app designed for college students and their families. The local and on-campus information comes pre-populated and is specific to each student's campus, while the user-entered data is unique to each student and allows them to decide what to share and with whom. An Urgent Alert beacon notifies trusted contacts when immediate help is needed, along with the student's GPS location. Additional features include the ability to upload and share a secure copy of the student's health insurance card, and a digital medical consent form which can allow the student's trusted friends and family to speak with medical personnel. Umergency is available in the App Store and Google Play. Learn more about the app by visiting www.umergencyapp.com or follow on Facebook @Umergency, Twitter @Umergency and Instagram @Umergency.

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