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SafeSchools USA
"Safer Schools Start With You"



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February 21st, 2023

TO: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

RE: Senate Bill 840 – Public Safety – Protection Against Hate Crimes Grant – Establishment

POSITION: FAVORABLE

Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

SafeSchools USA is a student-led and organized community organization, recognized primarily for its national presence and leadership in the training of educators, school resource officers, and other school safety stakeholders in the fields of school safety, school security, trends in student behavior, and student advocacy. It is as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the organization that I write to you, in absolute favor of SB 840.

All students deserve to learn in a safe environment. 18 U.S.C. §245¹ cites that the attendance of a public school is a federally-protected activity, meaning that no one, whether acting in accordance with law, or not, may prevent an individual from seeking or enrolling in school on the grounds of opposition to a protected class. However, this is not the case for students who are subject to undue bullying, harassment, and intimidation inside of the classroom. Some students are even targeted based on their race, gender, sexual identity, ethnic origin, or religion². These unfortunate circumstances are playing out in schools across America, and circumstances which are a disruption to the classroom, and can be a threat to the security and safety of a school.

¹ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/245> , 18 USC §245 - Federally Protected Activities Statute

² <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/249> , 18 USC §249 - Federal Hate Crimes Act and Statute

SB 840 – Public Safety – Protection Against
Hate Crimes Grant – Establishment

SB 840 establishes the Protection Against Hate Crimes Grant, a grant which can empower and financially support public and private schools to provide their school communities with greater security and protection from the execution of hate crimes.

No student should ever be subject to the execution of a hate crime, nonetheless within a school. However, we live in a world where some students are. So in the meantime, the best we can do is provide resources to try and protect our communities from them.

For these reasons, I ask that you produce a favorable report on Senate Bill 840.

Most Respectfully,



Henry J. Meiser

Co-Founder | SafeSchools USA

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