



**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1341
Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

Judiciary Committee
February 24, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. With a membership of over 190,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. CASA provides multiple education services to youth and adult immigrants in Maryland including college and career readiness, workforce and life skills ESOL, and vocational training.

CASA is pleased to offer favorable testimony in strong support of HB 1341, Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement. House Bill 1341 strengthens student protections against unlawful immigration enforcement activities. It also serves as a critical step towards restoring community trust in our public school system, trust which has been undermined by the unjust targeting of Black and brown students and their families for deportation.

In January 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded its long-standing "sensitive locations" policy and has since conducted immigration enforcement on school campuses across the country¹. In response to DHS' rescission, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Values Act and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issued updated guidance on student protections. Despite these actions, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state have interpreted state law in widely varying ways and, on occasion, have created local policy that contradicts both the letter and the spirit of the law. Because of this, CASA respectfully requests that the General Assembly again exercises its leadership to explicitly and unequivocally ban any collaboration between Maryland School Resource Officers (SROs) and federal immigration enforcement agents.

During the 2024-2025, student enrollment declined across the state of Maryland². At the same time, chronic absenteeism rates increased and graduation rates decreased for Latino students and

¹ <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ice-activity-on-k-12-school-grounds/810648/>

² <https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-school-enrollment-shrinking-why-UDZRSMI5FZFC7GOYWCSVUCYDR4/>

for Multilingual students³. The State Superintendent has indicated that if action is not taken to address these inequities, we will only see greater disparities reported for the 2025-2026 school year. Key to addressing the crisis is ensuring that all students feel truly welcomed and valued within our public education system. It means demonstrating through both policy and action that all members of the school community strive to provide Maryland students with protective and supportive learning environments. SROs are intended to reinforce students' actual and perceived security in educational spaces so that they can focus on learning and achieve their full academic potential. At a time when so many of our Black and brown students are living with the daily fear of family separation, it is critical that they understand our Maryland SROs will not betray their fundamental role of enhancing school safety by participating in the current deportation machine.

For these reasons, CASA respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1341.

³ <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/documents/2026/0127/cohort-graduation-rate-data-a.pdf>