

## **Late testimony**

Uploaded by: Ashanti Martinez

Position: FAV



## MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Delegate J. Sandy Bartlett, Chair  
Delegate Debra Davis, Vice Chair  
Judiciary Committee Members  
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus  
DATE: 02/25/2026  
RE: HB1341 - Public Schools - School Security Personnel -  
Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

### **The MLLC supports HB1341 - Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB1341.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has traditionally avoided conducting immigration enforcement operations at sensitive locations such as churches, courts, and schools, however that policy was changed after President Trump's second inauguration<sup>1</sup>. Recently, ICE has been seen in school parking lots and surrounding areas stoking terror in predominately immigrant and Latino communities. Immigration enforcement in public schools creates harm for students by fostering an environment of fear that can lead to chronic absenteeism and a threat to the right of an education<sup>2</sup>. As immigration enforcement has increased around public schools, public school systems have begun to issue guidance on how staff should respond to immigration enforcement.

School security personnel have unique access to schools due to their proximity to students and staff. That proximity makes school security personnel a target for information for immigration enforcement operations. This bill offers clear guidelines to school systems that employ safety personnel on how school safety personnel should respond to requests from immigration enforcement and prohibits school safety personnel from sharing sensitive information regarding students and school employees. It is important to protect children in sensitive locations, such as schools, which includes guarding their personal information from being leaked.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1341.

<sup>1</sup> [ACLI Pennsylvania. Schools must protect students –and follow the law– if ICE shows up. 13 Feb. 2025.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [American Immigration Council. Learning in the Shadows: How Immigration Enforcement Harms Students and Schools. 26 Aug. 2025](#)

## **Late testimony**

Uploaded by: Casey Wright

Position: FAV

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**TO:** House Judiciary Committee

**BILL:** House Bill (HB) 1341 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

**DATE:** February 25, 2026

**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the State Department of Education (MSDE) provide this Letter of Support regarding HB 1341 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

HB 1341 explicitly prohibits school resource officers (SROs), school security employees, and other law enforcement officers providing coverage to schools from engaging in any federal immigration investigation or enforcement activities under §287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Additionally, these personnel are barred from producing or sharing student educational records, employee personnel records, or any other information about students, school employees, or their families for immigration enforcement purposes.

By prohibiting school security personnel from engaging in immigration investigations or sharing sensitive student and employee information for immigration purposes, HB 1341 ensures that schools remain places of learning rather than enforcement. The proposed bill protects privacy rights and aligns with federal and state laws designed to safeguard personal information. Most importantly, it helps maintain a welcoming environment where all students and educators, regardless of immigration status, can focus on education without fear.

SROs in Maryland are law enforcement officers assigned to schools through formal agreements between local law enforcement agencies and local education agencies (LEAs). Their primary role is to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, prevent crime, and build positive relationships with students, staff, and families. SROs are meant to act as an additional support in the school setting, helping students understand legal and safety issues while building trust between schools and the community.

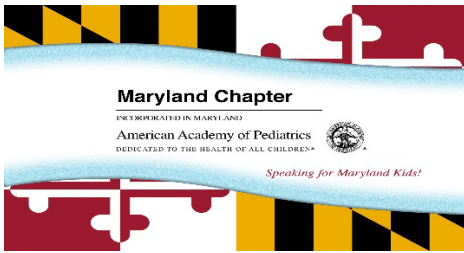
By being present in schools, SROs and school security personnel provide immediate response to emergencies, reduce incidents of violence or illegal activity, and support school administrators in developing safety plans and conducting drills. They also act as a bridge between families and law enforcement to promote understanding and collaboration. When these personnel are asked to participate in federal immigration enforcement, that trust can be severely compromised. Families may fear sending their children to school, and students could feel unsafe or targeted, which undermines both educational access and emotional well-being.

The State Board and MSDE respectfully request consideration of these comments as HB 1341 is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley at [laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov](mailto:laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov).

## **Late testimony**

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



House Judiciary Committee  
House Ways and Means Committee  
February 24, 2026

House Bill 1341 – *Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and Enforcement*  
**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MDAAP) is a statewide association representing more than 1,100 pediatricians and allied pediatric and adolescent healthcare practitioners in the State and is a strong and established advocate promoting the health and safety of all the children we serve. On behalf of MDAAP, we submit this letter of **support** for House Bill 1341.

Pediatricians across the country are seeing firsthand how aggressive immigration enforcement tactics impact child health. The fear of a loved one being detained, or witnessing immigration enforcement actions in their communities, causes measurable harm to children. Pediatricians are seeing increased anxiety, depression, learning difficulties, and even loss of sleep and appetite among children living with this chronic stress. Toxic stress in childhood is not just an emotional burden; it has lasting consequences for physical health, brain development, and academic achievement.

House Bill 1341 would prohibit public school security personnel from engaging in federal immigration investigation or enforcement activities and from sharing sensitive student or employee information for those purposes. Schools are essential protective environments. Children cannot learn effectively when they are afraid that going to school may expose their families to immigration enforcement. House Bill 1341 would ensure that public school security personnel are not engaged in federal immigration investigation or enforcement activities, and that sensitive student and employee information is not used for such purposes. This separation is critical to maintaining trust between families and schools.

When families fear interacting with school staff, children are less likely to attend regularly, participate fully, or access supportive services, such as counseling and school-based health care. By keeping immigration enforcement out of school security functions, Maryland can help ensure that schools remain safe spaces for all children.

In a recent USA Today op-ed, leaders of the American Academy of Pediatrics described how immigration enforcement and detention actions are affecting children nationwide and urged policymakers to consider the profound health consequences of these policies. Pediatricians are united in emphasizing that children's health must come first. House Bill 1341 is a child-centered policy that supports mental health, educational stability, and community trust. For these reasons, MDAAP respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1341.

**For more information call:**

Christine K. Krone  
J. Steven Wise  
Danna L. Kauffman  
Andrew G. Vetter  
410-244-7000



# **Hb1341 written testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Emma L. Reid

Position: FAV



February 20, 2026

**House Judiciary Committee**  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD

Re: HB 1341 - Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members,

You may already have read several of my letters by now. I assure you, I wrote them in good faith.

I am writing now to ask you to give a favorable report for HB 1341. Article VIII, § 1 of the Maryland Constitution says that the State “shall by Law establish throughout the State a thorough and efficient System of Free Public Schools; and shall provide by taxation, or otherwise, for their maintenance.” Relying on the rationalizations of a previous decision, the Court in *Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education* in 2023 found that the State was responsible for providing at least a basic education.<sup>1</sup>

This Court finds that the correct guidance in interpreting ART. VIII, § 1 is that the development of a statewide education system is up to the legislature's determination, and, at most, the legislature is commanded to "to establish such a system, effective in all school districts, as will provide the State's youth with a basic public school education." *Hornbeck v. Somerset County Bd. of Educ.*, 295 Md. 597,632 (1983).

The holding in *Hornbeck* concludes that ART. VIII, § 1 of the Maryland Constitution represents a floor for a basic education. It held "education need not be 'equal' in the sense of mathematical uniformity, so long as efforts are made ... to minimize the impact of undeniable and inevitable demographic and environmental disadvantages[.]" This holding explicitly recognizes that although a system may be imperfect, the Maryland Constitution only requires an effort by the State to at most provide a basic education. *Hornbeck.*, 295 Md. at 632.

***An effort.***

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<sup>1</sup> *Bradford v. Maryland State Board of Education*, at 15. Available at [https://www.aclu-md.org/app/uploads/2023/03/2023-bradford\\_v\\_msbe-opinion.pdf](https://www.aclu-md.org/app/uploads/2023/03/2023-bradford_v_msbe-opinion.pdf) (last accessed February 20, 2026).



*An effort* is all that is required to provide a basic and free education to all students under the Maryland Constitution.

In *Lau v. Nichols* (1974), the Supreme Court found that obstacles related to national origin, in this case language, could be shown to be national origin discrimination under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964.<sup>2</sup>

*Plyler v. Doe* (1982) found that the Fourteenth Amendment applies even to noncitizen students.<sup>3</sup>

We can make, at the very least, *an effort* to not violate our students' constitutional rights by protecting our schools and our students from unconstitutional interference with their right to an education. We have given our students this right under the Maryland Constitution and if we are to make laws to the contrary, then good luck overcoming that. The unconstitutional, warrantless searches that have been carried out across the country under this Administration by federal officials carrying administrative, non-judicial warrants, not only violate our students' and their families' rights but are an obvious obstacle and interference to a student's right to a basic education. Whether they are carried out on or off campus, students' lives are upended by this chaos.

Ratifying any further cooperation is putting our residents in harm's way. Please vote favorably for HB 1341.

Sincerely,

E. L. Reid, Esq.

309 Lord Byron Ln, Apt 204

Cockeysville, MD 21030

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<sup>2</sup> *Lau v. Nichols* (1974) brief and oral arguments available on Oyez at <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1973/72-6520> (last accessed February 20, 2026).

<sup>3</sup> *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) brief and oral arguments available on Oyez at <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1981/80-1538> (last accessed February 20, 2026).

**CASA\_FAV\_HB1341.pdf**

Uploaded by: Helen Rodriguez Letana

Position: FAV



**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 country<sup>1</sup>. 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 Maryland<sup>2</sup>. At the same time, chronic absenteeism rates increased and graduation rates decreased for Latino students and

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

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

for Multilingual students<sup>3</sup>. 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.**

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

# **Testimony Bill HB1341.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Makar

Position: FAV

**Testimony on House Bill – Favorable  
HB1341  
Judiciary Committee**

**19FEB26**

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Jen Makar and I am writing in support of HB1341 - Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

In truth my witness statement will be quite short as this bill is in support of a fundamental truth I hold close - all children should feel safe, period. Not only should schools be a place for children to simply learn, but a place to feel safe and unburdened by worries at home. Allowing ICE to take advantage of children in a location without their guardians is a tragedy. To then go a step further and involve School security guards, individuals these children are meant to trust and be protected by, in horrific actions ripping apart families is obscene.

I urge you to vote in favor of HB1341- HB1341 - Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB1341\_MSEA\_Cook\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jessica Cook

Position: FAV

**Favorable  
House Bill 1341  
Public Schools - School Security Personnel –  
Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

**Judiciary Committee  
February 24, 2026**

**Jessica Cook  
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1341. This legislation restricts school resource officers and security staff from participating in federal immigration enforcement or sharing student/employee data for such purposes.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

House Bill 1341 is part of a number of legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. There has been a dangerous escalation of authoritarian tactics that threaten safety, civil liberties, and democratic values across the country. The last 12 months have seen unjust law enforcement actions with little regard for due process and equal protection. Communities are being traumatized, requiring states like Maryland to resist assaults on our civil liberties through legislative action such as this bill.

MSEA believes in the continual promotion and protection of the educational environments that actively affirm the dignity, safety, and full participation of all individuals. MSEA further believes in fostering trust and opportunity for immigrant communities through policies that ensure their full inclusion and protection within the school environment.



Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in school, and to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe the prohibition of school resource officers and security staff from participating in federal immigration enforcement or sharing student/employee data for such purposes is part of creating safer communities and ultimately better learning and living conditions for our students, families, and staff.

**MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on House Bill 1341.**

**HB 1341\_Public Justice Center\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kelsey Carlson

Position: FAV



**Kelsey Carlson, Paralegal**  
Public Justice Center  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 1200  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
410-625-9409, ext. 269  
carlsonk@publicjustice.org

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## **House Bill 1341: Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

**Hearing before the House Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2026**

**Position: FAVORABLE**

The Public Justice Center (PJC) is a nonprofit legal services organization which advocates for social justice, and economic and racial equity in Maryland, including by upholding the rights of historically excluded and underserved students through individual representation, community outreach, and systemic advocacy. The PJC's Education Stability Project is committed to making discipline responsive to students' behavioral needs, fair, appropriate to the infraction, and designed to keep youth on track to graduate.

PJC strongly supports HB 1341, which establishes clear and appropriate boundaries for the role of public-school security personnel by prohibiting them from participating in federal civil immigration enforcement and from sharing student or employee information for immigration enforcement purposes without proper documentation. These protections are necessary to maintain safe schools, preserve trust between families and educators, and ensure equal access to education for all Maryland children.

### **Schools Must Be Safe and Accessible for Every Child**

Maryland law and long-standing constitutional principles guarantee every child access to a free public education regardless of immigration status. When students or their families fear that routine school interactions could lead to immigration consequences, that right becomes meaningless in practice.

Families across Maryland already make daily calculations about whether it is safe to attend school, communicate with teachers, or seek help from school staff. If a parent believes enrolling their child, updating emergency contacts, attending a conference, or responding to a school call could expose their family to immigration enforcement, they may avoid school entirely. Students miss class, health services, counseling, meals, and extracurricular activities — not because they do not want to participate, but because they are afraid.

Public school security personnel are highly visible authority figures. When those personnel are allowed — or perceived — to act as immigration agents or information sources for immigration enforcement, the effect is immediate: students disengage from school.

This bill addresses that problem directly. It ensures that school security staff serve their intended function — maintaining school safety — rather than being placed in a role that undermines educational access.

*The Public Justice Center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and as such does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for elected office.*

## **This Bill Improves, Not Weakens, School Safety**

Opponents claim that policies like this reduce safety; in reality, the opposite is true.

Effective school safety depends on trust. Students must feel safe reporting bullying, threats, harassment, weapons, self-harm concerns, and other dangers to school officials. Parents must feel safe contacting the school when problems arise. Educators must be able to reach families without fear that communication itself will cause harm.

When school personnel are connected to immigration enforcement, families lose trust. Students stop reporting problems. Parents stop answering phone calls and critical safety information is lost.

Across the country, educators and school administrators have repeatedly observed the same pattern: fear of immigration consequences leads to lower attendance rates, reduced parent engagement, and reduced reporting of safety concerns. That does not make schools safer – it makes them less able to identify and prevent harm.

This legislation would allow school security personnel to better protect students within the school environment, and immigration enforcement would remain the responsibility of federal agencies operating through lawful processes outside the educational setting.

*Importantly, the bill would not prevent compliance with a judicial warrant, court order, or other lawful legal requirement. Instead, it would prevent informal cooperation and data sharing that bypasses legal safeguards and compromises student safety and privacy.* School security staff are trained to maintain school order and respond to security threats, not to interpret complex federal immigration law or act as immigration agents.

## **Clear Boundaries Benefit Educators, Students, and the State**

Public schools exist to educate children. When immigration enforcement becomes intertwined with school operations, educational institutions take on a function they are neither trained nor designed to perform.

This bill would not obstruct federal law enforcement. Federal agencies retain their full legal authority and may still obtain records through lawful judicial procedures. Schools – and specifically school security personnel – would be prevented from becoming an informal extension of civil immigration enforcement.

Students cannot learn effectively when they are afraid. Families cannot partner with schools when communication may carry immigration consequences, and school safety cannot function without trust.

By ensuring that school security personnel are focused on school safety – and not federal civil immigration enforcement – HB 1341 strengthens education, protects privacy, and promotes safer schools for everyone.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 1341.

### **For more information contact:**

Kelsey Carlson, Paralegal  
Education Stability Project  
Public Justice Center  
410-625-9409, ext. 269  
[carlsonk@publicjustice.org](mailto:carlsonk@publicjustice.org)

## **Late testimony**

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FAV

# EDUCATION ADVOCACY COALITION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## HOUSE JUDICIARY AND WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEES

### HOUSE BILL 1341: Public Schools—School Security Personnel—Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

February 25, 2026

#### Position: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals committed to advancing education policies that protect and support Maryland students with disabilities. The EAC supports House Bill 1341, which would prohibit school security personnel, including school resource officers and others, from engaging in immigration investigation or enforcement functions at public schools and from producing or sharing information about students, their families, or school employees for the purposes of federal immigration enforcement investigation or enforcement in the absence of a judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or legal order for the production of information.

As the United States Supreme Court held more than forty years ago in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S.202 (1982), all students, regardless of their immigration status, are entitled to attend school. Many EAC members represent or work with immigrant families whose children have disabilities and who need special education and related services in order to make educational progress. Families should not have to choose between ensuring the safety of their children and themselves from immigration agents and accessing the educational services and supports to which their children are legally entitled.

Although House Bill 1341 cannot completely protect children and their families and school employees from the myriad ways they are vulnerable to immigration enforcement, by protecting their information, the bill will enable children to engage in the business of learning and will enable school staff to engage in the business of teaching without having to worry that personal information will simply be handed over to immigration agents.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 1341.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis at [lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org](mailto:lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org) or 443-692-2505.

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Attorney

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Parents Place of Maryland  
Linda Barton, Education Consultant  
Beth Benevides, Autism Society of Maryland; Co-Chair, Education Advocacy Coalition  
Ellen Callegary, Attorney (retired)  
Melanie Carlos, Partnership for Extraordinary Minds  
Rich Ceruolo, Parent & Advocate  
Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success  
Alyssa R. Fieo, Maryland Office of the Public Defender  
Jennifer Engel Fisher, JEF Consultants  
Lisa Frank, Special Kids Company  
Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course  
Stacy Ganz Kahn, Educational Resources Group of Greater Washington  
Mallory Legg, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute  
Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland  
Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy  
Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center  
Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland; Maryland Organizations of  
Parents of Blind Children  
Kate Rabb, Law Offices of Joseph & Rabb  
Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism  
Jaime Seaton, BGS Law  
Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

# **Opposition to HB 1341 – Public Schools - School Se**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

Opposition to **HB 1341** – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to respectfully **oppose HB 1341**, concerning *Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and Enforcement*.

Student safety and well-being must always remain a top priority. **HB 1341** raises concerns regarding the scope of limitations it places on school security personnel and the potential unintended consequences for school safety operations.

School security personnel are tasked with maintaining safe learning environments and responding to a wide range of situations that may involve coordination with law enforcement or other public safety agencies. **Restricting their ability to communicate or cooperate in matters that may intersect with immigration-related investigations would hinder effective information-sharing in circumstances where broader public safety concerns may be present.**

Additionally, policies that create operational barriers or limit coordination between school-based safety personnel and appropriate authorities may place administrators and local school systems in difficult positions when responding to complex or rapidly evolving situations. Ensuring the safety of students, staff, and visitors requires flexibility, clear communication, and the ability to engage with relevant agencies when necessary and appropriate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB 1341**.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,  
Trudy Tibbals