



Coalition for Safer Schools

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

RE: Senate Bill 540, Education – School Mapping Data Program

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Coalition for Safer Schools represents a diverse group of individuals and organizations, all of whom have stake in the success of the educational process. In this capacity, I write on behalf of our members in support of Senate Bill 540 (SB540), *“Education – School Mapping Program – Established”*.

The purpose of this program is to provide funds to local education agencies (LEAs) to develop school mapping data of each public school in their district. These maps can assist public safety personnel with responding to emergencies at a public school.

The Coalition holds that the development and subsequent use of school maps can be an invaluable resource to first responders, as they deliver critical (and sometimes lifesaving) measures to students, staff, and other members of a school community. This mapping data would provide accurate and up-to-date information on school buildings and grounds. Much of this data may already exist is not digitized, or no longer reflects the school grounds as they are today. The bill makes sure that first responders are never forced to enter a building blind, leaving them unable to coordinate and appropriate entry and response.

For these reasons, the Coalition for Safer Schools supports SB 540, and its House cross-file HB 472, and requests a favorable report.

Respectfully,

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Executive Director

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