



Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 4, 2026

Senate Bill 810 – *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 Senate Bill 810.

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.

Senate Bill 810 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. Senate Bill 810 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. Senate Bill 810 is a child-centered policy that supports mental health, educational stability, and community trust. For these reasons, MDAAP respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 810.

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