

March 2, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman

Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

2 West Miller Senate Office Building

11 Bladen Street

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB 810, Public Schools, School Security Personnel, Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

Dear Chair Feldman,

Maryland Latinos Unidos (MLU) is honored to express our strong support for Senate Bill 810, Public Schools, School Security Personnel, Immigration Investigation and Enforcement. This legislation prohibits public school security personnel from engaging in certain federal immigration investigation and enforcement functions and restricts producing or sharing certain student or employee information for immigration enforcement purposes except under specified circumstances.

Schools must be safe places to learn, not places where families fear that routine interactions could trigger immigration enforcement. When families avoid schools due to fear, students suffer academically, socially, and emotionally. SB 810 strengthens a clear boundary between school safety functions and federal immigration enforcement, protecting student wellbeing and preserving trust between families and school communities.

This is not a niche concern. Maryland is a diverse state where Hispanic or Latino residents make up 13.3 percent of the population and foreign born residents make up 16.6 percent. In mixed status households, even a rumor of collaboration with immigration enforcement can reduce school engagement, deter parents from meetings, and prevent families from seeking services such as counseling, special education supports, or language access programs.

SB 810 also supports accurate, effective school safety strategies. When communities trust school personnel, they are more likely to share information about threats, bullying, and safety concerns. Separating school security duties from immigration enforcement helps ensure that students and families report concerns without fear, which strengthens prevention and response.

Implications for Latino and immigrant Marylanders include improved attendance, higher family participation, and stronger relationships with educators and school leaders. For students, it means fewer disruptions, reduced stress, and a school climate that supports learning. For school systems, it means policies that align with educational mission and student rights while maintaining safety.

MLU urges the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 810, affirming that Maryland schools are places of learning and protection for every child.

Sincerely,

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