



Testimony - SB 810, Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration
Investigation and Enforcement
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 4, 2026
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Honorable Chairman Feldman & Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SEIU Local 500 represents thousands of public school employees across Maryland, including school security employees and other frontline support staff who work every day to keep our children safe. These professionals are entrusted with protecting students from harm and ensuring that schools remain safe, welcoming spaces for learning. Senate Bill 810 appropriately clarifies that their role is school safety—not federal immigration enforcement.

At a time when many immigrant families are living in fear of increased federal immigration actions, it is critical that Maryland’s public schools remain focused on education and student well-being. School security personnel and school resource officers are hired and trained to prevent violence, de-escalate conflicts, and respond to emergencies—not to participate in federal immigration investigations under 287(g) agreements or similar enforcement efforts.

When school-based personnel are drawn into federal immigration enforcement, it undermines trust between students, families, and schools. Students who fear that their personal information could be shared or that school staff may act as immigration agents are less likely to attend school consistently, report safety concerns, or seek help from trusted adults. That erosion of trust compromises the core mission of school safety.

Senate Bill 810 draws a clear and responsible line. It prohibits public school security personnel from engaging in federal immigration investigation and enforcement functions at schools. It further prevents the sharing of student educational records, employee personnel records, or other personal information for immigration enforcement purposes—unless there is a valid judicial warrant, subpoena, or court order and the matter is routed through appropriate school system leadership and legal counsel. This ensures compliance with the law while protecting student privacy and due process.

For SEIU Local 500 members working in our schools, this bill is also about protecting staff from being placed in untenable positions. School security employees and support staff should not be forced to act as extensions of federal immigration authorities or to participate in actions that may contribute to racial profiling or the targeting of vulnerable communities. Their duty is to create safe learning environments for every child, regardless of background.

Maryland's public schools must remain spaces where children are judged by their potential—not their immigration status, their last name, or the neighborhood they come from. By keeping immigration enforcement functions separate from school safety roles, Senate Bill 810 helps ensure that schools are not used as sites of government overreach and that school personnel can focus fully on protecting students from real threats to their safety.

SEIU Local 500 urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 810 to safeguard student privacy, protect school employees, and preserve trust in Maryland's public schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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