

**Favorable Written Testimony for SB0810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel -
Immigration Investigation and Enforcement – Lorette Vetusi – 3/2/26**

Dear Members of the Maryland Senate Energy, Education and Environment Committee,

My name is Lorette Vetusi, and I am writing to provide favorable testimony in support of **SB0810**. I am strongly in favor of this bill which would protect students and staff in Maryland schools by prohibiting school security personnel from collaborating with federal immigration enforcement personnel to conduct ICE investigations on school campuses, and to share student and staff information with ICE agents. I was happy to see that the House's version of this bill passed through the House and has moved on to the Senate.

I believe that passage of this bill will make Maryland schools safer since immigrant students and family members will be more likely to report incidents of bullying, threats of violence, and other safety-related concerns to school security and other staff members when they don't have to worry about risking arrest and deportation. School security staff should be focusing their time and effort on their main mission of keeping students safe on school grounds. Having to work with federal immigration agents only detracts from this objective.

Additionally, if federal immigration agents are not allowed to step foot on school grounds without a judicial warrant, subpoena or court order, then immigrant parents should be more likely to send their children to school, thereby improving school attendance.

Furthermore, I believe that allowing ICE and CBP agents to enter school premises creates major distractions and disruptions in school routines and academic learning time. As a retired school psychologist, I know the importance of eliminating – or at least minimizing - unnecessary interruptions in school classrooms and hallways during instructional periods. Not to mention the fact that chronic fear and anxiety over potential family separation and deportation experienced by immigrant children and their sympathetic classmates and friends are likely to negatively impact students' academic learning and achievement over time. Schools are already stretched thin when it comes to mental health resources.

Last but not least, I am in favor of this bill because it protects students' privacy by preventing school staff from sharing students' or employees' records or other information with federal immigration officials.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorette Vetusi
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