



**Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
March 4, 2026**

Senate Bill 810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

POSITION: SUPPORT

On behalf of the National Association of Social Workers, Maryland Chapter (NASW-MD), we wish to express our support for Senate Bill 810. As members of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and its Social Workers in Schools Committee, we offer our testimony in support of Senate Bill 810. This legislation is essential because it protects both students and school employees by explicitly prohibiting school security personnel—and, by extension, any school staff involved in safety, discipline, or student support—from participating in federal immigration investigations, enforcement activities, or the sharing of student information for those purposes.

Within the Student Services field, our work is built on close, daily collaboration among school social workers, school counselors, school psychologists, pupil personnel workers, school nurses, and administrators. Together, we witness the profound impact that fear of immigration enforcement has on students and families. Even the perception that school personnel might communicate with federal immigration authorities can lead families to avoid seeking help, decline services, or disengage from the school community altogether. This fear compromises academic success, mental health access, crisis response, and overall school safety.

Supporting Senate Bill 810 aligns directly with the NASW Code of Ethics, which guides our profession. Our commitment requires us to make clear that public schools are not extensions of federal immigration agencies. Our purpose is to nurture, protect, and advocate for the youth and families we serve, not to expose them to additional vulnerability or harm. Central to our ethical obligations is the mandate to honor the dignity and worth of every person, prioritize client well-being, and fully protect confidentiality allowed by law. Upholding these principles requires policies that remove fear and build trust. Senate Bill 810 strengthens our ability to fulfill those obligations by ensuring that school environments remain places where all students—regardless of immigration status—have safe, equitable access to services, support, and educational opportunity.

In closing, we urge the Maryland General Assembly to pass Senate Bill 810 to affirm that Maryland's public schools remain places of safety, trust, and equitable opportunity for every student. We respectfully ask for your favorable report on this legislation and stand ready to partner in creating schools where all children can belong, grow, and succeed without fear.

Respectfully,

Claudette Blackwell, LCSW-C
School Social Worker
NASW-MD Chapter, Social Work in Schools Committee