

SB 810, Public Schools, School Security Personnel,

Uploaded by: Carlos Orbe, Jr.

Position: FAV

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,

Carlos Orbe, Jr.
Communications and Public Affairs Specialist
Maryland Latinos Unidos
corbejr@mdlatinosunidos.org

SB0810_Public_Schools_School_Security_Personnel_Im

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR SB0810
Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

Bill Sponsor: Senator King

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0810 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Immigration enforcement in this country has become a misnomer. It is currently a lawless, aggressive, and cruel operation designed to abuse anyone that the any of the Department of Homeland Security personnel decide they don't like. They have crossed every line and become criminals themselves.

The last thing we need is for them to be using our school personnel to target people. This bill, if enacted, would prohibit school security personnel from providing any information or document pertaining to student educational records or employee personnel records or any other information about a student, a public-school employee, or a student's or a public-school employee's family or household for purposes of federal immigration investigation or enforcement.

Additionally, if they are given a judicial warrant, a judicial subpoena, or other legal document that would require them to produce any information they must immediately contact the County Superintendent and Legal Counsel for the local school.

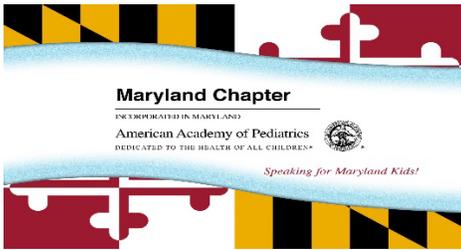
Sadly, we need this level of security to ensure that our children and their families are safe from the kind of targeting that we are seeing every day.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.

SB0810_FAV_MDAAP_Public Schools - School Security

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



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.

For more information call:

Christine K. Krone
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Andrew G. Vetter
410-244-7000

SEIU Local 500 - Testimony in Support of SB 810 20

Uploaded by: Christopher Cano

Position: FAV



Testimony - SB 810, Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration
Investigation and Enforcement
Favorable
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 4, 2026
Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs on Behalf of SEIU Local 500

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.

Christopher C. Cano, MPA
Director of Political & Legislative Affairs
SEIU Local 500

CASA_FAV_SB0810.pdf

Uploaded by: Helen Rodriguez Letana

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 810
Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

Judiciary Committee
March 4, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee,

CASA is a national powerhouse organization building power and improving the quality of life in working-class: Black, Latino/a/e, Afro-descendent, Indigenous, and Immigrant communities. With a membership of over 190,000 members, CASA creates change with its power-building model blending human services, community organizing, and advocacy to serve the full spectrum of the needs, dreams, and aspirations of members. CASA provides multiple education services to youth and adult immigrants in Maryland including college and career readiness, workforce and life skills ESOL, and vocational training.

CASA is pleased to offer favorable testimony in strong support of SB 810, Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement. Senate Bill 810 strengthens student protections against unlawful immigration enforcement activities. It also serves as a critical step towards restoring community trust in our public school system, trust which has been undermined by the unjust targeting of Black and brown students and their families for deportation.

In January 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded its long-standing "sensitive locations" policy and has since conducted immigration enforcement on school campuses across the country¹. In response to DHS' rescission, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Values Act and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issued updated guidance on student protections. Despite these actions, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state have interpreted state law in widely varying ways and, on occasion, have created local policy that contradicts both the letter and the spirit of the law. Because of this, CASA respectfully requests that the General Assembly again exercises its leadership to explicitly and unequivocally ban any collaboration between Maryland School Resource Officers (SROs) and federal immigration enforcement agents.

During the 2024-2025, student enrollment declined across the state of Maryland². At the same time, chronic absenteeism rates increased and graduation rates decreased for Latino students and

¹ <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ice-activity-on-k-12-school-grounds/810648/>

² <https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-school-enrollment-shrinking-why-UDZRSMI5FZFC7GOYWCSVUCYDR4/>

for Multilingual students³. The State Superintendent has indicated that if action is not taken to address these inequities, we will only see greater disparities reported for the 2025-2026 school year. Key to addressing the crisis is ensuring that all students feel truly welcomed and valued within our public education system. It means demonstrating through both policy and action that all members of the school community strive to provide Maryland students with protective and supportive learning environments. SROs are intended to reinforce students' actual and perceived security in educational spaces so that they can focus on learning and achieve their full academic potential. At a time when so many of our Black and brown students are living with the daily fear of family separation, it is critical that they understand our Maryland SROs will not betray their fundamental role of enhancing school safety by participating in the current deportation machine.

For these reasons, CASA respectfully urges the Committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 810.

³ <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/documents/2026/0127/cohort-graduation-rate-data-a.pdf>

2026 SB810 NAPNAP.pdf

Uploaded by: JD Murphy

Position: FAV



March 2nd, 2026

Maryland Senate
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the pediatric nurse practitioners (PNPs) and fellow pediatric-focused advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP) Maryland Chesapeake Chapter, we are writing to express our **support of Senate Bill 810 Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.**

We believe it is crucial that schools remain a safe space for children and that students, regardless of their immigration status. This is particularly important for vulnerable populations who may be apprehensive about seeking support services or fully participating in school activities due to fears related to immigration enforcement. This bill aligns with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) policy, which emphasizes that children should not be subjected to immigration enforcement in school settings. The AAP advocates for creating safe and supportive environments for all children, asserting that schools should be places for learning and growth, free from the fear of deportation and legal action. NAPNAP also recently issued a call to action to include the Protect Sensitive Locations Act in Department of Homeland Security funding. This act would codify previous past policies that prohibited enforcement actions by ICE agents within 1,000 feet of hospitals, health clinics and clinical practices, as well as schools, homeless shelters and child-centered community locations.

Moreover, this bill helps to promote a culture of trust between students, families, and educational institutions. When students feel secure, they are more likely to seek help when needed, engage in their education, and build positive relationships with educators and peers. This is vital for their emotional and mental health and contributes to a healthier and more inclusive school community. For these reasons, the Maryland Chesapeake Chapter of NAPNAP extends their **support of SB810 Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement and requests a favorable report.**

The pediatric advanced practice nurses of your state are grateful to you for your attention to these crucial issues. The Maryland Chapter of NAPNAP membership includes over 200 primary and acute care pediatric nurse practitioners who are committed to improving the health and advocating for our state’s pediatric patients. If we can be of any further assistance, or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Maryland Chapter legislative chair, Dr. JD Murphy, at mdchesnapnapleg@outlook.com.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jessica D. Murphy DNP, CPNP-AC, CPHON, CNE
Maryland Chapter Legislative Chair

Dr. Evgenia Ogorodova DNP, CPNP-PC
Chapter Legislative Co-Chair

Dr. Yvette Laboy DNP, CPNP-AC,
CCRN, CPN; Chapter President

Ms. Lindsay Ward MSN, CPNP-PC,
IBCLC; Immediate Past-President

Dr. Samantha Hoffman DNP, MS,
CPNP-PC; Chapter President-elect

MYAC Testimony for SB0810.pdf

Uploaded by: Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes

Position: FAV



Maryland Youth Advisory Council
c/o Governor's Office Children
45 Calvert Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Graham Snyder, *Chair*
Joyce Yun, *Vice Chair*
Qamryn Askew, *Legislative Chair*

02, 23, 2026

Re: SB0810 | Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

Chair Feldman and members of the EEE Committee,

My name is Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes, and I am here in my capacity as a 2nd-year member of the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, which was established by law in 2008 (Chapter 559, Acts of 2008). The Council keeps the Governor and the General Assembly apprised of issues which are important to youth in the State. Annually, the Council also formulates a legislative proposal and conducts public hearings on issues of concern to more than 1.9 million Maryland youth. In 2016, the council's charge was expanded to include local government.

Fear of immigration enforcement has increased in our nation. 4 in 10 immigrants fear that they or their family members may be detained or deported¹. In addition, 50% of lawfully present immigrants have reported increased anxiety². Imagine how this may impact our state's youth. Instead of worrying about which universities they want to attend, what they'll do for recess tomorrow, or what AP courses to take soon, many of them wonder whether showing up for school is worth it, or whether they'll see their families at the end of the school day. Schools are seen as safe environments for students, bolstered by the presence of security or school resource officers (SROs). However, this trust is shattered when personnel are used to compromise students' on-campus safety. A case we can reflect on is that of Liam Ramos. A five-year-old child was detained by ICE agents after being used to detain his father. The press captured a photo of Liam being put into a vehicle, with a facial expression of fear. Not only did this impact Liam, but it also affected his peers, too. Many of them began writing letters to ICE, revealing their fear and concern about their classmates' arrest³.

¹ Vani Sangneria. (2025, November 19). *Survey: Immigrant parents avoid school, work due to deportation concerns*. EdSource.

<https://edsource.org/updates/survey-immigrant-parents-avoid-school-work-due-to-deportation-concerns>

² kffisabelle. (2025, November 18). *KFF/New York Times 2025 Survey of Immigrants: Worries and Experiences Amid Increased Immigration Enforcement* | KFF. KFF.

<https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/kff-new-york-times-2025-survey-affected-Liam>, but it also affected his peers' fearful

expression of immigrants' worries and experiences amid increased immigration enforcement/

³ New York Times Opinion. (2026, January 31). *ICE Took Their Classmate. They Started Writing Letters*. YouTube; The New York Times. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Cw36_u3_7k



Liam Ramos, detained by ICE (2025)

It shouldn't be this way. I implore you all to support this bill. Even though I attended a different school system growing up (DCPS), I still know one thing to be true: my school security personnel were trusted figures and mentors to me. I saw how they encouraged my peers to excel academically and make better choices. Allowing school security to engage with ICE operations will not only thwart the trust students have in their security but also create tension and unrest in our public schools, potentially disrupting learning environments. Data already shows that the percentage of students who feel understood has decreased since the pandemic, from 43% in 2020 to 22% in 2022⁴. I ask that you make a decision today that does not worsen this existing issue but instead increases students' confidence in their school's staff and in your roles as legislators.

Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes
Co-Chair, Community Initiative Committee
2nd Year Member

⁴ YouthTruth. (2023, April). *Students Weigh In, Part IV: Learning & Well-Being After Covid-19*. YouthTruth Survey; The Center for Effective Philanthropy. <https://youthtruth.org/resources/students-weigh-in-part-i-learning-well-being-during-covid-19/>

SB810_MSEA_Cook_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Jessica Cook

Position: FAV

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

**Education, Energy, and the Environment
March 04, 2026**

**Jessica Cook
Government Relations**

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 810. This legislation restricts school resource officers and security staff from participating in federal immigration enforcement or sharing student/employee data for such purposes.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

Senate Bill 810 is part of a number of legislative initiatives that MSEA is supporting this session to lend our voice to protect students in schools and their communities. There has been a dangerous escalation of authoritarian tactics that threaten safety, civil liberties, and democratic values across the country. The last 12 months have seen unjust law enforcement actions with little regard for due process and equal protection. Communities are being traumatized, requiring states like Maryland to resist assaults on our civil liberties through legislative action such as this bill.

MSEA believes in the continual promotion and protection of the educational environments that actively affirm the dignity, safety, and full participation of all individuals. MSEA further believes in fostering trust and opportunity for immigrant communities through policies that ensure their full inclusion and protection within the school environment.



Educators have a moral and professional responsibility to keep all students safe, primarily in school, and to advocate for safe communities for our students and their families. We believe the prohibition of school resource officers and security staff from participating in federal immigration enforcement or sharing student/employee data for such purposes is part of creating safer communities and ultimately better learning and living conditions for our students, families, and staff.

MSEA adds our voice to this critical moment that requires a renewed commitment to civil rights and social justice and urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 810.

NASW Maryland - 2026 SB 810 FAV - School Security

Uploaded by: Karessa Proctor

Position: FAV



**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

SB810 Support (Written).pdf

Uploaded by: Kenzie Funk

Position: FAV



**Testimony in SUPPORT of
Senate Bill 810: Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and
Enforcement
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**

Position: Support

March 4, 2026

At Strong Schools Maryland, we work to support the faithful implementation and full funding of the promises legislated through the landmark Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. The Blueprint envisions a public education system where all students can feel safe and supported to learn and thrive in their school community. It was designed to specifically address systemic inequities that disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities. The students and families promised this sense of safety and support include our immigrant communities. As a result, **Strong Schools Maryland offers favorable testimony in support of SB 810 – Public Schools – School Security Personnel – Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.**

At its core, SB810 is about upholding Maryland’s values – fairness, dignity, and justice for all. Senate Bill 810 strengthens student protections against unlawful immigration enforcement activities. It also serves as a critical step towards restoring community trust in our public school system, trust which has been undermined by the unjust targeting of Black and brown students and their families for deportation.

In January 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) rescinded its long-standing “sensitive locations” policy and has since conducted immigration enforcement on school campuses across the country¹. In response to DHS’ rescission, the General Assembly passed the Maryland Values Act and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) issued updated guidance on student protections. Despite these actions, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) across the state have interpreted state law in widely varying ways and, on occasion, have created local policy that contradicts both the letter and the spirit of the law. Because of this, CASA respectfully requests that the General Assembly again exercises its leadership to explicitly and unequivocally ban any collaboration between Maryland School Resource Officers (SROs) and federal immigration enforcement agents.

¹ <https://www.k12dive.com/news/ice-activity-on-k-12-school-grounds/810648/>

¹ [How Strict Immigration Enforcement Harms School Children](#)

² [American Immigration Council](#)

³ [Immigration Enforcement and US Schools: What Could Happen and What Education Leaders Can Do](#)

During the 2024–2025, student enrollment declined across the state of Maryland². At the same time, chronic absenteeism rates increased and graduation rates decreased for Latino students and for Multilingual students³. The State Superintendent has indicated that if action is not taken to address these inequities, we will only see greater disparities reported for the 2025–2026 school year. Key to addressing the crisis is ensuring that all students feel truly welcomed and valued within our public education system. It means demonstrating through both policy and action that all members of the school community strive to provide Maryland students with protective and supportive learning environments. SROs are intended to reinforce students' actual and perceived security in educational spaces so that they can focus on learning and achieve their full academic potential. At a time when so many of our Black and brown students are living with the daily fear of family separation, it is critical that they understand our Maryland SROs will not betray their fundamental role of enhancing school safety by participating in the current deportation machine.

These enforcement practices directly contradict the mission of our public school system. The Blueprint is built on the very foundation of active community engagement and accountability to governing systems in order to ensure that all students are equitably served, including and prioritizing supports and protections for immigrant and undocumented students. It is interwoven into every pillar of the Blueprint. Without preserving the protections for immigrant communities, the promises of the Blueprint will never be realized, and real students and families will be harmed in the process.

For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland urges the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 810.

Please contact Kenzie Funk at kenzie@strongschoolsmaryland.org for additional questions.

²<https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-school-enrollment-shrinking-why-UDZRSMI5FZFC7GOYWCSVUCYDR4/>

³ <https://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/documents/2026/0127/cohort-graduation-rate-data-a.pdf>

EACtestimony2026.SB810.pdf

Uploaded by: Leslie Margolis

Position: FAV

Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities

SENATE EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 810: Public Schools—School Security Personnel—Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

March 4, 2026

Position: SUPPORT

The Education Advocacy Coalition for Students with Disabilities (EAC) is a coalition of nearly 50 organizations and individuals committed to advancing education policies that protect and support Maryland students with disabilities. The EAC supports Senate Bill 810, which would prohibit school security personnel, including school resource officers and others, from engaging in immigration investigation or enforcement functions at public schools and from producing or sharing information about students, their families, or school employees for the purposes of federal immigration enforcement investigation or enforcement in the absence of a judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or legal order for the production of information.

As the United States Supreme Court held more than forty years ago in *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S.202 (1982), all students, regardless of their immigration status, are entitled to attend school. Many EAC members represent or work with immigrant families whose children have disabilities and who need special education and related services in order to make educational progress. Families should not have to choose between ensuring the safety of their children and themselves from immigration agents and accessing the educational services and supports to which their children are legally entitled.

Although Senate Bill 810 cannot completely protect children and their families and school employees from the myriad ways they are vulnerable to immigration enforcement, by protecting their information, the bill will enable children to engage in the business of learning and will enable school staff to engage in the business of teaching without having to worry that personal information will simply be handed over to immigration agents.

For these reasons, the EAC supports House Bill 1341.

Contact: Leslie Seid Margolis at lesliem@disabilityrightsmd.org or 443-692-2505.

Education Advocacy Coalition Testimony: Senate Bill 810, Page 2

Respectfully submitted,

Selene Almazan, Attorney

Rene Averitt-Sanzone, Parents Place of Maryland

Linda Barton, Education Consultant

Beth Benevides, Autism Society of Maryland; Co-Chair, Education Advocacy Coalition

Ellen Callegary, Attorney (retired)

Melanie Carlos, Partnership for Extraordinary Minds

Rich Ceruolo, Parent & Advocate

Michelle Davis, ABCs for Life Success

Alyssa R. Fieo, Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Jennifer Engel Fisher, JEF Consultants

Lisa Frank, Special Kids Company

Beth Ann Hancock, Charting the Course

Stacy Ganz Kahn, Educational Resources Group of Greater Washington

Mallory Legg, Project HEAL at Kennedy Krieger Institute

Leslie Seid Margolis, Disability Rights Maryland

Monica Martinez, Martinez Advocacy

Ellen O'Neill, Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center

Ronza Othman, National Federation of the Blind of Maryland/Maryland Organization of Parents
of Blind Children

Kate Rabb, Law Offices of Joseph & Rabb

Rebecca Rienzi, Pathfinders for Autism

Jaime Seaton, BGS Law

Guy Stephens, Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint

SB1080 - Favorable - Lorette Vetusi.pdf

Uploaded by: Lorette Vetusi

Position: FAV

**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
2900 Sedgefield Court
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Testimony in support of SB0810 - School Security P

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

SB0810_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
03/04/2026
Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703-7134

TESTIMONY ON SB#0810 - POSITION: FAVORABLE
Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB#0810, **Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement**

This bill is submitted to prevent the use of school security personnel or school resource officers from becoming ICE agents in performance of their duties. The Greater Good Science Center of UC-Berkley has reported on *How ICE Raids Are Affecting Children—And What Schools Can Do - What is immigration enforcement doing to kids and families? And what can schools do to protect their students' mental health and physical safety?*¹

Experts and educators alike say that immigration raids are inflicting a terrible toll on children's mental health and education. Some school systems have created new rules for addressing ICE visits to their campuses. Others are [sharing information](#) with families about their rights, and some parents [signed power of attorney](#) agreements that would give another adult the ability to take custody, even briefly, of their children should they be detained.

Here's an overview of what ICE raids are on kids and how schools are responding to protect their students' mental health and physical safety.

- Immigrants in schools
- Educational outcomes
- Mental health impact
- What's happening in children's minds
- What can schools do?

This bill will prohibit public school security personnel from engaging in certain federal immigration investigation and enforcement functions; and prohibiting public school security personnel from producing or sharing certain student or employee information for purposes of federal immigration investigation and enforcement, except under certain circumstances.

We know and can see the harms from the decision that schools are no longer treated as a safe space, a sanctuary, by ICE. This bill restores that safety to our students and staff.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on SB0810.

¹ https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_ice_raids_are_affecting_children_and_what_schools_can_do

SB0810 - State Board & MSDE - Support.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Kinkaid

Position: FAV

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and Environment

BILL: Senate Bill (SB) 810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement

DATE: March 4, 2026

POSITION: Support

The Maryland State Board of Education (State Board) and the State Department of Education (MSDE) provide this Letter of Support regarding SB0810 – Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

SB0810 explicitly prohibits school resource officers (SROs), school security employees, and other law enforcement officers providing coverage to schools from engaging in any federal immigration investigation or enforcement activities under §287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Additionally, these personnel are barred from producing or sharing student educational records, employee personnel records, or any other information about students, school employees, or their families for immigration enforcement purposes.

By prohibiting school security personnel from engaging in immigration investigations or sharing sensitive student and employee information for immigration purposes, SB0810 ensures that schools remain places of learning rather than enforcement. The proposed bill protects privacy rights and aligns with federal and state laws designed to safeguard personal information. Most importantly, it helps maintain a welcoming environment where all students and educators, regardless of immigration status, can focus on education without fear.

SROs in Maryland are law enforcement officers assigned to schools through formal agreements between local law enforcement agencies and local education agencies (LEAs). Their primary role is to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, prevent crime, and build positive relationships with students, staff, and families. SROs are meant to act as an additional support in the school setting, helping students understand legal and safety issues while building trust between schools and the community.

By being present in schools, SROs and school security personnel provide immediate response to emergencies, reduce incidents of violence or illegal activity, and support school administrators in developing safety plans and conducting drills. They also act as a bridge between families and law enforcement to promote understanding and collaboration. When these personnel are asked to participate in federal immigration enforcement, that trust can be severely compromised. Families may fear sending their children to school, and students could feel unsafe or targeted, which undermines both educational access and emotional well-being.

The State Board and MSDE respectfully request consideration of these comments as SB0810 is discussed and deliberated. For further information, please contact Laurel Cratsley at laurel.cratsley@maryland.gov.

2026 MASHN SB 810 Senate Side.pdf

Uploaded by: Robyn Elliott

Position: FAV

Maryland Association of School Health Nurses



To: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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

Date: March 4, 2026

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of School Health Nurses (MASHN) supports *Senate Bill 810 - Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement*. The bill prohibits school security personnel from participating in or sharing information furthering immigration enforcement actions. We are deeply concerned about the impact of immigration enforcement actions on Maryland students and families. The rate of student absenteeism could substantially increase as a result of fear in the immigrant community.ⁱ We support this legislation as part of the strategy to address the concerns of our students, their families, and our communities.

We ask for a favorable vote. If we can provide any information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net.

ⁱ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/potential-impacts-of-increased-immigration-enforcement-on-school-attendance-and-funding/>

SB810 - King - Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

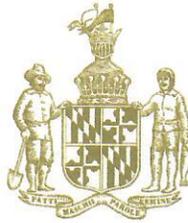
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MAJORITY LEADER

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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

March 4, 2026

Mister Chairman and Members of the Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

Across the country, children are being harmed by immigration enforcement actions. They are witnessing armed agents conduct raids at their schools, homes and communities. They are living in a climate of fear. And children don't need to be directly impacted by these actions to be harmed. Children who see their friends afraid of losing a loved one or of being detained, are also living in conditions of chronic stress which undermines healthy development.

Under our State Constitution, children are entitled to, "a thorough and efficient System of Free Public Schools." Children cannot be afforded "a thorough and efficient" education if they do not trust those schools to protect them and keep them safe.

Senate Bill 810 will be one step in restoring community trust and help in alleviating some fears of students and parents while children are in school. This legislation would bar public school security personnel from producing or sharing information or documentation pertaining to student educational records or any other information about or from a student, a public school employee, or a public school employee's family or household for the purposes of federal immigration investigation or enforcement.

The bill further requires public school security personnel to immediately contact their county superintendents and district legal counsel if they are presented with a valid judicial warrant, judicial subpoena or other legal order to produce information about a student, school employee or their families related to federal immigration enforcement investigations.

Intimidation and fear have no place in our schools, and our schools cannot function without the trust of their students and parents. By ensuring that our school security personnel are focused on the jobs they were hired to do – protecting our children – and not being drawn into federal immigration enforcement, our schools can move forward with providing students with a safe space to learn and grow.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 810.

SB 810 - SWASC - School Security Immigration Inves

Uploaded by: UM SWASC

Position: FAV

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 810
Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and
Enforcement
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 4, 2026

Social Work Advocates for Social Change strongly supports SB 810, which will ensure that public school security personnel are not involved in federal immigration enforcement and prohibited from sharing students' or school employees' personal information for immigration purposes, except when legally required. This bill will also require public school security personnel to immediately contact the county superintendent and legal counsel for the local school system if presented with a judicial warrant, subpoena, or legal order for immigration purposes.

SB 810 upholds student privacy precedent for all Maryland students, regardless of immigration status. Federal law and longstanding Supreme Court precedent clearly establish protections for student information. Since the 1982 Supreme Court case *Plyer vs. Doe*, students across all states have the right to receive a free and public education, regardless of immigration status.¹ In light of this ruling, both the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Justice have provided guidance that schools should refrain from asking students and families about their immigration status upon enrollment.² This federal ruling and the subsequent federal guidance makes clear that a student's immigration status is not relevant to school enrollment and should not be collected or maintained by school systems. If immigration status is not relevant to document for educational purposes, there is no justification for its dissemination to external entities. Further, under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), our schools safeguard students' academic records from being shared without parental consent.³ If we do not disclose academic or behavioral records without consent, it is an inconsistent and inequitable practice to treat a student's immigration status any differently.

Maintaining student and immigrant families' trust in school personnel is foundational to safety and learning. Research and testimony confirm that when immigrant families fear schools, they disengage – not just from attendance but from reporting safety concerns, collaborating with school staff, and participating in school programs. Lower parental involvement is linked with lower academic achievement and

¹ *Plyer v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982). Cornell Legal Information Institute.
<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/457/202>

² U.S. Department of Justice & U.S. Department of Education. (2011, May 6). School enrollment procedures.
<https://www.ed.gov/media/document/colleague-201101pdf-90483.pdf>

³ U.S. Department of Education, Student Privacy Policy Office. (n.d.). What is FERPA?
<https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/faq/what-ferpa>

increased absenteeism. One survey suggests that over a quarter of immigrant caregivers surveyed avoid speaking with school officials or teachers and 30% said they will not enroll their child in school programs or early childhood development programs.⁴ Similarly, a study of seven California school districts found that immigration enforcement is associated with declines in academic achievement, attendance, and safety measures.⁵ Students reported lower sense of belonging and reduced perceptions of fairness, with these effects especially pronounced for those who have ever had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) – highlighting the compounded harm for immigrant students in special education.⁶ These findings demonstrate that maintaining trust with immigrant families and students is critical for academic success, engagement, and overall safety.

SB 810 works to increase school participation by reducing fear of immigration enforcement. Maryland schools have lost more than 11,000 students in the 2025-2026 school year with principals directly citing ICE enforcement as a driver of families' decisions to keep children home.⁷ Maryland Board of Education president, Josh Michael, reported a 4.4% drop in graduation rates for Hispanic students and 5.5% drop for multilingual learners in 2025. In Howard County, Hispanic students' graduation rates declined 8% and English learners by 14%.⁸ Statewide and nationally, research confirms that the threat of enforcement suppresses attendance and decreases school participation, with many families already living in fear. By codifying clear limits on school security's personnel role in the immigration enforcement, SB 810 signals to Maryland's families that our legislators are trying to make sure our schools remain a safe space for students to learn and not be criminalized.

For these reasons, **Social Work Advocates for Social Change urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 810.**

Social Work Advocates for Social Change is a coalition of MSW students at the University of Maryland School of Social Work that seeks to promote equity and justice through public policy, and to engage the communities impacted by public policy in the policymaking process.

⁴ Brookings Institution. (2025, August). What harsh immigration policies mean for students, families, and schools. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-harsh-immigration-policies-mean-for-students-families-and-schools/>

⁵ Kirksey, J., & Sattin-Bajaj, C. (2021). Immigration arrests and educational impacts. *AERA Open*, 7(1). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/23328584211039787>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Baltimore Banner. (2025, December 16). What's to blame for shrinking Maryland school enrollment? <https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-school-enrollment-shrinking-why-UDZRSMI5FZFC7GOYWCSVUCYDR4/>

⁸ Baltimore Banner. (2026, January 27). Maryland sees drop in Hispanic graduations as immigration raids ramp up. <https://www.thebanner.com/education/k-12-schools/maryland-hispanic-graduation-rate-immigration-HFDHM6PHLJEYDC7LAKAQRZYDUI/>

SB 810 - FWA - ACLU-MD (Mar 4, 2026).pdf

Uploaded by: Frank Patinella

Position: FWA



**Testimony for the Senate Education, Energy, and the
Environment Committee**

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

March 4, 2026

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

FRANK PATINELLA
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GENERAL COUNSEL

The ACLU of Maryland supports SB 810, which seeks to prohibit public school security personnel from participating in any federal immigration investigation or enforcement. The bill also bars them from producing or sharing student education records, employee personnel records, or any other information about students, school employees, or their families for immigration enforcement purposes. We respectfully ask the committee to amend the bill to align with its crossfile, HB 1341, which passed third reader in the House on February 27, 2026.

SB 810, with the aforementioned amendments, will ensure clear protocols for how public schools interact with federal immigration enforcement officers. The bill would require a school resource officer, any school security personnel, principal, assistant principal, teacher, or counselor to immediately contact the school district's superintendent and legal counsel if presented with a judicial warrant, judicial subpoena, or legal order for the purposes of a federal immigration investigation or enforcement. School staff are not trained to manage interactions with federal officers, and this protocol would ensure their safety and the district's legal compliance with state and federal law. The amended bill would prohibit public school staff from engaging in or assisting with any form of federal immigration enforcement activity, including sharing data about students, employees, or their families.

SB 810, with the aforementioned amendment would add also food pantries and designated school bus stops and school vehicles, as defined by the Transportation Article (§ 11–154), to the list of sensitive locations. The bill would ensure that any portion of a sensitive location that requires a security screening is not accessible to immigration enforcement absent a valid judicial warrant, or unless exigent circumstances exist.

Additionally, if amended to align with HB 1341, the Maryland Attorney General would be required to update the guidance for courthouses, public schools, public libraries, and any entity of the state or local government labeled as a sensitive location by October 1, 2026. Each entity would be responsible for updating and implementing a policy consistent with the guidance.

Sensitive locations must remain safe and accessible to all Marylanders, regardless of immigration status, to ensure people, including children receive the full rights and protections the law affords them, and that our justice system does not further split into separate classes for the powerful and powerless in our state. Employees operating at sensitive locations also deserve additional clarity regarding how to manage interactions with immigration enforcement to protect themselves legally.

For these reasons, the ACLU of Maryland urges the committee to issue a favorable report on SB 810 with the House amendments.

SB 810_HB 1341_ Public Schools - School Security

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: UNF

SB 810/HB 1341: Public Schools - School Security Personnel - Immigration Investigation and Enforcement: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Education, Energy & the Environment Committee and Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my strong **OPPOSITION** to **SB 810/HB 1341**, regarding Public Schools and Immigration Investigation and Enforcement.

School security personnel are tasked with maintaining order, protecting students, and responding to safety concerns within the school environment. I believe that public safety and school security are best maintained when school security personnel and School Resource Officers (SROs) have the flexibility to cooperate with all levels of law enforcement. Restricting the ability of security personnel to communicate or collaborate with federal authorities will create gaps in oversight and impact the overall safety of the school environment.

Students and parents must feel comfortable engaging with educators, administrators, and school staff. That can't happen if SROs are unable to obtain critical information about students or staff that is crucial to their safety. When families are hesitant to communicate with schools, it can negatively affect attendance, academic performance, and overall student well-being.

Public education works best when it is centered on learning, stability, security and community trust. **This legislation places unnecessary restrictions** on the information-sharing processes **that are vital for maintaining secure communities**. Maryland's schools should focus on **comprehensive** safety protocols.

I respectfully urge you to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on **SB 810/HB 1341**.

Thank you for your time and for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals