

March 6, 2026

Ways and Means Committee

Re: HB1182 Public and Nonpublic Schools - Student Elopement - Locative Devices

Position: SUPPORT

Dear Madam Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldmark, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Reginald A. Lawson**. I am writing to express strong support for **House Bill 1182**, which would authorize schools to coordinate the voluntary use of locative devices to help protect students who may be at risk of elopement.

I am a facilitator of a monthly men's caregivers support group. We discuss real-world realities of the risks of elopement during adult daycare visits, shopping, and even family outings. I emphasize the passing of time is the greatest risk multiplier for those that elope suffering with cognitive disabilities. Locating them quickly is paramount.

I employed several available options during my caregiving journey, such as medical alert bracelets and seatbelt covers to inform anyone, who found my mother, of her condition and whom to call. However, this approach did not address the time-sensitive risk.

My mother favored comfortable sneakers, so I purchased GPS-infused sneakers. This afforded the family (paid caregivers, daycare staff, search personnel) the ability to quickly identify her general area when she eloped, thereby reducing time to find her and lessening exposure to danger. The psychological relief of knowing you can find them as quick as possible is invaluable.

House Bill 1182 allows schools to **coordinate the voluntary use of locative devices for students who are at risk of elopement**, helping caregivers and school staff quickly locate a child if they leave a safe environment. The bill also establishes **important privacy protections** to ensure information collected through these devices is handled appropriately.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to issue a **favorable report on House Bill 1182**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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