

Submitter: Rachel Auerbach
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4079

As an architect, I primarily design schools. Schools are a place for learning, and learning occurs when students feel safe. Students must not be in fear that they, their classmates, or the staff of their schools are under threat. As architects, we do many things to make school buildings feel safer, but this bill can help make schools operate in a way that feels safe enough for learning to happen.

Schools are also a place for telling students our shared societal values and our opinion of them as children/teens/young adults. When we treat them as members of society who have value, they learn to act in ways that bring value to our society. When we subject them to the uncertainty of possible federal raids that dehumanize some of them based on the actions of their parents and caregivers, and some of them based purely on the color of their skin or the sound of their name, we teach them that some people have less worth than others, and that some people needn't bother trying to contribute to our society.

For that reason, I support giving guidance to school districts and higher education institutions about policies for a humane response for when federal immigration authorities enter school properties or campuses.