January XX, 2025

Honorable Lena Gonzalez

California State Senator, 33rd District

1021 O Street, Suite 8610

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill (SB) 48 (Gonzalez) - SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

[Insert Organization Name] is proud to support SB 48, which will restrict local educational agencies (LEAs) and local law enforcement agencies from assisting federal immigration enforcement officers on or near school grounds—providing additional protections for students and families to attend school safely. The bill will also prevent school personnel and law enforcement from sharing any information – formal or informal -- about students, their families, or households, with federal immigration officials.

[INSERT ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION AND CONNECTION TO THE BILL]

The U.S. Supreme Court has long guaranteed that all children have a right to a free public education, regardless of immigration status (*Plyler v. Doe,* 457 U.S. 202 (1982)). California has taken several steps to protect this right including limiting when immigration or citizenship status information about pupils and their families can be collected by school officials as well as prohibiting the use of state and local law enforcement agencies and school police from engaging in immigration enforcement, except in narrow circumstances.

While these laws have strengthened student safety, fear among the undocumented community persists. Immigration raids near school campuses cause fear among vulnerable communities, and consequently, parents are less likely to feel safe sending their children to school. California schools are working hard on addressing chronic school absenteeism, and threats of immigration raids will greatly undue this work, thereby threatening attendance-based school funding and the quality of education provided.

SB 48 will strengthen California’s ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environments for students, regardless of their immigration status. Specifically, the bill will prevent an LEA and its staff from granting federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers permission to access a school campus without a judicial warrant. The bill also prevents LEA personnel from disclosing the education records or any information – formal or informal -- about a pupil, pupil’s family and household, school employee, or teacher to an ICE officer without a judicial warrant. Finally, SB 48 will establish a one-mile radius around a school site restricting local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement officers within that zone.

Students and members of mixed status families are currently facing increased fear of deportation, and the recent immigration raids in the state are only the beginning of the incoming administration’s anti-immigrant agenda. Schools must remain a safe space for all students to learn and thrive. For the above reasons, [Insert Organization Name] supports SB 48.

Sincerely,

**Name**

**Title**

**Organization**