



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors - Third District and Fourth District

Subject: Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 48 -- Immigration Enforcement Prohibitions on School Sites

Meeting Date: January 28, 2025

Formal Title: Adopt resolution in support of Senate Bill 48 - Immigration Enforcement Prohibitions on School Sites, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Adopt resolution in support of Senate Bill 48 (Gonzalez) - Immigration Enforcement Prohibitions on School Sites; and
2. Authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to send a letter of support to the bill's authors and to the County's state legislative delegation.

Executive Summary

Senate Bill 48, introduced by California Senate Majority Leader Lena Gonzalez (D-33), aims to protect immigrant families and ensure that public schools remain safe, secure, and supportive learning environments for all students. The legislation would prohibit school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools from permitting federal immigration enforcement activities on school campuses without a judicial warrant. It would also prohibit local law enforcement agencies from collaborating with immigration authorities on enforcement actions near schools. Given Santa Cruz County's commitment to equity, inclusion, and the welfare of immigrant communities, supporting this legislation aligns with our values and priorities.

Discussion

California's public schools are home to a diverse population of students, with nearly half belonging to immigrant families. However, increased immigration enforcement actions in and around schools have disrupted learning environments, exacerbated absenteeism, and created a climate of fear. Existing laws, including the California Values Act, provide some protections but do not fully address immigration enforcement on or near school campuses. Protecting school environments from immigration enforcement activities is essential to ensuring student success and upholding the constitutional guarantee of safe and secure campuses for all.

Senate Bill 48 (SB 48) addresses this issue by: 1) prohibiting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and other federal officials from accessing school campuses without a judicial warrant; 2) preventing the disclosure of education records or personal information about students, their families, or school staff to immigration authorities without proper authorization; 3) restricting California law enforcement from assisting immigration authorities with enforcement actions within a one-mile radius of any school; and 4) mitigating the financial and educational harm caused by immigration enforcement, particularly in immigrant communities.

SB 48 aligns with Santa Cruz County's values of equity, inclusion, and community well-

being and affirms a statewide commitment to protect immigrant students and their families from undue stress and harm; ensure compliance with state mandates guaranteeing the right to education for all children; and safeguard school funding tied to student attendance. In additions to these protections, is also recommended that the author consider adding language to the bill that would extend these protections to medical facilities, places of worship, ceremonial events including but not limited to weddings and funerals, and public demonstrations.

By adopting a resolution in support of SB 48, and communicating this support to the bill's author, as well as to our state legislative delegation, the County will reaffirm its commitment to ensuring that all students, regardless of immigration status, can learn in a safe and supportive environment and demonstrate solidarity with immigrant families.

Financial Impact

Information on the financial and budgetary impacts of this item. Must include GL key and object.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Justin Cummings, Third District Supervisor and Felipe Hernandez, Fourth District Supervisor

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.