

Board of Education

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Dr. Ward Andrus, **Superintendent**

August 18, 2025

Assemblywomen Celeste Rodriguez, District 43
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0043

We must contest elements of AB 495 in its current form as it creates real concern for the safety of our students. Daily we are entrusted with the safety of other people's children. Once in our care, it is our duty to protect them until their parent or guardian or any person on the Emergency Contact Card presents themselves with appropriate identification. We oppose AB 495 in its current form. We recognize the unique needs of students with undocumented parents and the fear current federal immigration enforcement causes. It is important to highlight that this proposed bill affects nearly 6 million students across the State, not just those with undocumented parents.

- The lack of a parent/guardian signature is alarming. Parent/guardian signatures are required on everything from field trip forms, to clearing an absence, to participating in athletics. Why would the State drop the signature requirement on an affidavit?
- The language surrounding the Emergency Contact Card must be strengthened to add the individuals on the affidavit to the Emergency Contact Card.

If this bill proceeds and becomes law in its current form, we will add additional verification of the individual attempting to register, withdraw, check out of school, etc. by engaging our law enforcement partners who may then conduct welfare checks, background checks, or any other necessary measures to ensure the student is safe prior to releasing them.

Sincerely,

Ward Andrus, Ed. D., Superintendent

CC: Governor Newsom