



June 22, 2022

The Honorable Steven Bradford
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7210
Sacramento, CA 95814

SB 1273 (Bradford) - ACTIVE OPPOSE

Dear Senator Bradford,

I write you today on behalf of the Peace Officers' Research Association of California (PORAC), representing 75,000 public safety members and 930 public safety associations. We regret to inform you of our opposition to SB 1273 relating to school safety: mandatory notifications.

This bill eliminates the requirement that schoolteachers and administrators notify law enforcement when a student engages in certain unlawful, and possibly deadly, behaviors on campus.

PORAC is deeply concerned with SB 1273. This bill presents serious obstacles for our officers seeking to protect and serve the most vulnerable among us, our children. For example, in Section 1 of the bill, a student can willfully disrupt any public school or school board meeting without any consequence. If the behavior occurs on the school site and the site administrator cannot stop the staff or student, law enforcement would be unable to assist until that student batters or threatens another, making the entire school unsafe. This situation will ultimately lead to the school locking down and causing more psychological trauma to the students and staff.

In addition, Section 2 repeals Education Code §44014 and allows schools to under-report injuries to school employees. It also allows schools and districts to forbid an employee from calling law enforcement when "attacked, assaulted, or physically threatened by a pupil." Not only does this section directly obstruct victims' rights, but it also encourages the hiding and covering up of crimes on school campuses by deleting the consequences of not reporting certain violent acts. Administrators, who may be more concerned about the perception of their school than safety, will be motivated to not properly report crimes.

Lastly, similar to Section 1, Section 3 amends Education Code §48902 and removes the requirement that a school call law enforcement if a student has committed a CPC §245(a)(1) (Assault with A Deadly Weapon). This language also removes the civil or criminal protection of the caller should they be physically assaulted or suspect that a deadly weapon has been brought onto the school site. Therefore, if a principal, teacher, or any other person calls in a report of a deadly weapon, serious controlled substance, assault, or attack by a student on campus, that individual will have exposed themselves to potential civil and criminal liability. Also, SB 1273 removes the language protecting teachers and other school employees from potential employer discipline, including dismissal, for contacting law enforcement when the employer may have a policy forbidding such action—even if that employee feels their life was in danger.

Brian R. Marvel
President

Damon Kurtz
Vice President

Shawn Welch
Treasurer

Randy Beintema
Secretary

There can be no doubt that school safety should be of the utmost priority. Studies have shown that students and teachers returning to school after the pandemic have faced a more violent environment. We must work together to improve the safety of our children and staff on school campuses. We need communication, collaboration, and accountability between our school administrators and law enforcement more now than ever before. SB 1273 goes in the opposite direction.

Again, PORAC opposes SB 1273. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative advocate Randy Perry at (916) 716-3952.

Very Truly Yours,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Peace Officers Research Association of California

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian R. Marvel". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line that extends across the bottom of the name.

Brian R. Marvel
President

cc: The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
Members, Assembly Education Committee
Consultant, Assembly Education Committee
Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus