

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Hamilton County Principals Association Opposes SB 0836

On behalf of the Hamilton County Principals Association, we are writing to express our collective opposition to any proposed legislation that seeks to deny enrollment of immigrant children in public schools. Specifically, we are strongly opposed to SB 0836 proposed by Senator Bo Watson.

The Association is asking the Hamilton County School Board to pass a resolution promising to allow school access to all children who reside in Hamilton County.

As leaders of public schools across Hamilton County, we stand firmly in the belief that every child and every community must be served. Our schools are not only institutions of learning—they are the heart of our neighborhoods, and they reflect our shared values of inclusion, dignity, and opportunity for all.

Public education in the United States is a right afforded to all children, regardless of their background or immigration status. Denying this right not only contradicts our professional ethics and moral responsibilities, but also violates legal precedent grounded in the U.S. Constitution. Under the 14th Amendment, "No state shall... deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." This constitutional protection, affirmed by the Supreme Court in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982), guarantees that children cannot be excluded from receiving a public education based on immigration status.

As educators, our mission is clear: we are dedicated to creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments where all students can thrive. Efforts to exclude children from school due to their immigration status undermine this mission, threaten the well-being of vulnerable communities, and harm the future of our nation.

As school principals, we do not support any legislation that would restrict any child's access to education. We stand firm with families and communities in upholding the values that make our public schools essential to a productive and just society.

On Behalf of the Hamilton County Principals Association

Greg Wilkey, President

Rashaad Williams, Vice-President

Jill Levine, Treasurer

Jesse Goins, Secretary