



Dear Lawmaker,

On behalf of our 4,500 locally elected school directors across the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) respectfully requests your support for House Bill 49 (Brown) which was amended in the Senate to restore powers to school police officers that were recently removed, and to extend the deadline for school security personnel to complete the training required under Act 67 of 2019.

School safety is a top concern for our members, and PSBA remains focused on state-level policies that will make our public schools safe and secure environments for learning. To that end, PSBA strongly supports the restoration of full authority to school police officers as an unquestionably important and necessary action to ensure the safety of students and employees.

Further, PSBA strongly supports the extension of the Act 67 training window for school security personnel from the initial six month deadline to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. It has become clear since the enactment of Act 67 that the six month window to train the more than 1,800 school security personnel throughout the Commonwealth will not be a sufficient period of time to ensure full compliance. Without the extension of the training deadline, school districts will be faced with the tough decision to remove untrained personnel from school buildings, thus reducing safety and security or retain such personnel at the risk of a significant increase in liability issues. For this reason PSBA supports extending the deadline for all security personnel, including school resource officers, school police officers, and school security guards to complete the required training.

PSBA appreciates the recognition of these school safety issues and urges the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to support House Bill 49 as amended by the Senate and to send the bill to the Governor as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring every school across the commonwealth is a safe place to educate and learn.

Sincerely,

John M. Callahan
Chief Advocacy Officer