



Jan. 28, 2019

Senator John Albers, 56th District
206 Washington Street
State Capitol, Room 421-C
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Senator Albers:

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA), we are writing to express our strong support for GA SB 15, the *Keeping Georgia's Schools Safe Act*, which authorizes public schools to request funding assistance from the state for facility safety improvements, such as the installation of security equipment, including, but not limited to, video surveillance cameras, metal detectors, panic alarms, communications systems, access control systems, and other similar security devices.

SIA is a non-profit, international trade association representing over 900 security and life safety solutions providers. We are committed to promoting safe and secure school environments by providing affordable and appropriate solutions and supporting the nationwide use of best practices to ensure the most effective use of limited resources. We are partnered with a non-profit organization called the Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) that has brought together expertise from the education, public safety and industry communities to create K-12 school safety and security guidelines, which can be found at www.passk12.org. The measures addressed in your bill are recommended by PASS, and we encourage you to look at these and other nationwide best practices detailed within the Guidelines.

Modern, effective security infrastructure is an essential component of any comprehensive school safety strategy. However, budget constraints, aging facilities and balancing other priorities within the education system are all incredibly difficult issues facing educational institutions today. As addressing security gaps at K-12 schools has become an increasing concern for students, parents, teachers and administrators, we appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

Please let us know if SIA or our members can provide any further information or other assistance needed to support successful enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Erickson".

Don Erickson
Chief Executive Officer
Security Industry Association