



June 25, 2019

Representative Alice Hanlon, District 14  
Chair, Joint Committee on Education  
24 Beacon Street Room 473-G  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Hanlon:

SIA represents nearly a 1000 manufacturers and integrators of security and life safety products used by thousands of schools across the country to keep students, faculty and school visitors safe.

On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA) I am writing to express our concerns with HB 3871, which amends Chapter 71 of the General Laws to include "temporary door locking devices" for public schools to utilize in classroom.

We are concerned that the revision to the code is entirely too broad and permits the use of devices that do not meet proper code requirements for free egress, particularly in that occupants would not be able to exit without obstruction. Additionally, willful misuse of the devices could prevent both escape and intervention from the outside. If an emergency situation was taking place inside of the locked room, first responders would not be able to enter.

We recommend that should the Committee amend Chapter 71 of the General Laws respect to school doors, all existing guidelines and life safety codes as well as commercially available products and services should be given thorough review prior to formulating the revisions.

We know you share our interest in ensuring the safety and security of students and school personnel at all times. Please let us know if SIA or its members can provide further assistance to you and the legislature as you consider these important issues.

Sincerely,

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

Don Erickson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Security Industry Association

Staff contact: Drake Jamali, [djamali@securityindustry.org](mailto:djamali@securityindustry.org)