



August 21, 2019
Representative John Spiros, District 86
Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
2 East Main Street
State Capitol, Room 212 North
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Chairman Spiros:

The Security Industry Association (SIA) represents over 900 manufacturers and integrators of security and life safety products, including several with global headquarters and thousands of employees in Wisconsin. Many of our members provide products that are used by schools across the country to keep students, faculty and school visitors safe.

On behalf of SIA and our members I am writing to express our concerns with AB 44, which would amend state law to allow public schools to utilize "barricade devices" in classrooms.

It is essential that all classrooms can be locked from the inside, as a basic protection for occupants in the event of an emergency. However, most school safety organizations and K-12 security experts oppose the use of "barricade devices" also known as "door blockers" or "secondary locking devices", for three critical reasons:

1. **Willful misuse of the devices** could prevent both escape and intervention from the outside. If an emergency was taking place inside of the locked room, first responders would not be able to easily enter.
2. Most of these devices **do not meet proper fire code requirements for free egress and violate accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, which ensure that occupants can exit easily and without obstruction.
3. **Lockdown capability is provided by currently deployed and available classroom security locks** that are safer for students and school personnel. A secondary locking device is completely unnecessary to address active shooter threats. Throughout dozens of documented cases there have been no instances where a school attacker has bodily breached a locked classroom. The Partner Alliance for Safer Schools (PASS) recommends several types of classroom locks appropriate for the K-12 setting (see attached fact sheet).

At a minimum, any changes to state laws on this matter be preceded by a thorough review of classroom security issues that examines all existing guidelines and life safety codes as well as commercially available products and services.

We share your interest in ensuring the safety and security of students and school personnel at all times, particularly in the classroom. 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