

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
STATEMENT TO
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 134

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 134 with committee amendments.

As amended, this concurrent resolution expresses the Legislature's intent that school districts and public institutions of higher education continue to serve as safe zones and resource centers for students and families threatened by immigration or discrimination; and that school districts and public institutions of higher education continue to protect the data and identities of undocumented students, family members, and school employees who may be adversely affected by future federal policies or executive action that results in the collection of personally identifiable information.

Since the conclusion of the 2016 presidential election, school districts, public institutions of higher education, and the students and families they serve have raised increased concerns about the possibility of impending action by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that may impact undocumented students and their families. As a result of this heightened concern, school districts and institutions of higher education across the country have adopted resolutions and policies reaffirming their intent to continue to act as safe zones and resource centers for students and families threatened by immigration or discrimination and to protect the identities of and data related to undocumented students and their families.

The State of New Jersey has a long history of supporting persons who seek to escape hardship and deprivation to find a better life for themselves and their children. In return for its support, the State has benefited from the many contributions that immigrants have made to the economic and cultural growth of the State. It is the intent of the Legislature that this history of support continues.

The committee amended the bill to delete references to specific municipalities that have declared themselves to be "sanctuary cities" and to make technical corrections.