

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
via e-mail: Diane.Adamson@mail.house.gov

Dear Ranking Member Raskin:

We write to express our strong opposition to any effort to overturn *Plyler v. Doe*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that guarantees all children—regardless of immigration status—the right to a free public K-12 education.

Plyler v. Doe is rooted in core constitutional principles. In 1982 the United States Supreme Court held in *Plyler v. Doe* that denying children access to public education based on their immigration status violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, which guarantees equal protection to all persons—not only citizens—within a state’s jurisdiction. The Supreme Court recognized that children should not be punished for circumstances beyond their control and warned that excluding them from schools would create a permanent underclass, imposing long-term social and economic costs on the nation. Overturning this precedent would be both unconstitutional and deeply harmful to Texas and to the country as a whole.

Access to education is fundamental to a functioning society. Denying children an education not only affects individual students and their families but also harms entire communities. Without access to education, children are far more likely to experience poverty, unemployment, and long-term economic instability, ultimately increasing public costs rather than reducing them.

The economic consequences of excluding immigrant children from education are significant and well-documented. Immigrants are major contributors to the state’s economy. In fact, undocumented immigrants in Texas contribute billions annually in state and local taxes, supporting our public schools, infrastructure, and public services. They also comprise a substantial share of the workforce, helping drive key industries and economic growth. Their participation strengthens the labor force, fills critical workforce needs, and increases overall economic productivity.

Investments in education amplify these benefits. Policies that expand educational access for immigrant students have been shown to generate hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic activity, increase wages, and strengthen the state’s long-term competitiveness. On the other hand, restricting access to education would reduce earning potential, shrink the workforce, and weaken the state economy.

Consequently, preserving access to education is in Texas’ self-interest. Our state depends on a skilled and educated workforce to sustain its economic growth. Immigrant and first-generation students are a vital part of that future—contributing as workers, taxpayers, entrepreneurs, and community members. Denying them access to education would undermine the state’s economic stability and long-term prosperity.

Finally, overturning *Plyler v. Doe* would create immediate and widespread disruption. Schools would be forced into the role of immigration enforcement, families would be driven into fear and isolation, and many children—regardless of status—would avoid going to school altogether. The result would be lower educational attainment, reduced economic mobility, and long-term harm to communities across Texas.

Plyler v. Doe has been a cornerstone of equal access to education and a reflection of our nation’s commitment to fairness, opportunity, and the rule of law for more than four decades. Weakening or overturning it would reverse decades of progress and impose lasting harm not only on children, but also on the economic future of our state.

We urge you to oppose any effort to undermine or to overturn *Plyler v. Doe* and to reaffirm the principle that every child in Texas and throughout the country deserves access to a free public education.

Respectfully,



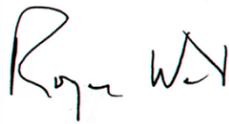
Carol Alvarado
Chair
Texas Senate Democratic Caucus



José Menéndez
Chair
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Senate District 21



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Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
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Senate District 29



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