



PREVENTING VIOLENCE
AND DEVELOPING
YOUTH LEADERS

February 15, 2017

Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Room 4166
Sacramento, CA 94249-0070

RE: AB 699 (O'Donnell) – Protect students from overzealous Immigration Raids

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

Youth ALIVE!, strongly supports AB 699, which aims to protect students from overzealous immigration raids that heighten fear and anxiety and diminish feelings of safety. AB 699 prohibits ICE officers from entering public schools without prior approval from a principal or district superintendent, and prevents school officials from collecting information regarding the immigration status of a student or their family members.

This bill, introduced in the wake of President Trump's Executive Order targeting undocumented immigrants would require school districts to provide relevant counseling, inform parents about their child's right to a free public education and teach students about the negative impacts of bullying based on immigration status, religious beliefs or ethnic background.

Youth ALIVE! is a violence prevention and intervention organization that helps young people become leaders and advocates for the change they would like to see in their communities through our Teens on Target Program, mentors and supports healing for young people who have been violently injured through our Caught in the Crossfire program, and works with families grieving in the wake of a homicide through our Khadafy Washington Project. This issue impacts our clients. And Youth ALIVE! supports this legislation because we work with young people and because it is the right thing to do.

AB 699 will protect students from unnecessary fear and trauma through immigration raids. By ensuring young people and their parents know their rights and students are able to be safe at school we can foster a healthy atmosphere for learning and tolerance in California schools.

Respectfully,

Anne Marks
Executive Director

YOUTH ALIVE!
3300 Elm Street
Oakland, CA 94609
Tel: (510) 594-2588
Fax: (510) 594-0667
mail@youthalive.org
www.youthalive.org

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Youth ALIVE!
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