

Chair Hall, Vice Chair Ferguson, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for hearing testimony today on HB 42. My name is Liam Strausbaugh and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of NASW Ohio.

Ohio HB 42 is unnecessary and duplicative in implementation and is lacking base knowledge of current reporting requirements and clear guidance on how this information will be used.

Currently, unauthorized immigrants are unable to access services such as SNAP, Medicaid, and cash assistance, with even green-card holders needing to wait five years before they are able to access these services. This is mandated by federal law. Officials rendering these services are already required to collect social security numbers. Undocumented immigrants have no ability to access services such as these, which numerous studies attached in my references have shown, making citizenship data collection and reporting irrelevant in this scenario.

When it comes to schools, if they are now mandated to collect and report citizenship data from students and this data will then be used to cut school budgets, while at the same time schools are federally mandated to provide educational services to all children – even if undocumented – how is this going to function and what exactly is the purpose? Schools have no choice in whether or not they enroll students who are unauthorized immigrants, so using this citizenship data collection to then further cut and restrict school budgets isn't going to simply remove unauthorized immigrants from schools, but will instead keep the same number of individuals enrolled while stripping funding from the school system as a whole, impacting *all* enrolled students.

School officials, superintendents, and leadership at Job and Family Services have not been consulted on this piece of legislation that would greatly impact their operations. This bill needs work. Affected agencies need to be consulted to fully understand what mechanisms are already in place to limit unauthorized use of funds and services and more clarity needs to be provided as to how exactly this collected information will be used.

I ask that you vote NO on HB 42.

Thank you,  
Liam Strausbaugh, LSW



1. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/blog/truth-about-immigrants-federal-government-benefits-medicare-snap/>
2. <https://www.nilc.org/articles/what-new-federal-snap-restrictions-and-guidance-mean-for-immigrant-communities/>
3. <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/obbb-alien-eligibility>

