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Senate Education Committee
SB 290 Sponsor Testimony
October 28, 2025

Chair Brenner, Vice Chair Blessing, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 290, which would require school districts to install secure key boxes for law enforcement access on each school building in the district.

As a father and grandfather, I am deeply concerned with children's safety, especially when they are away from their parents at school. We have witnessed a tragic increase in the number of hostile events at our schools in recent years, and for this reason we put a lot of trust in our schools and law enforcement to keep our children safe. In the event of a serious accident or active shooter at school, law enforcement officers should be able to access the school building quickly and safely. This bill proposes a simple security solution: require lock boxes containing master keys be installed on the exterior of every school building, at a place where law enforcement designate. This is a tangible security

measure that doesn’t involve expensive equipment or significant changes to school policies.

The lock box feature has been recommended by the U.S. Department of Justice and is supported by law enforcement agencies across the country. Currently, Texas, North Carolina, Minnesota, Utah, and Missouri have passed key box legislation, while other states have pending legislation, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, New York, and New Jersey. I will now allow my joint sponsor, Senator Reynolds, to detail the bill’s provisions.