

Senate Judiciary Committee  
April 20, 2021  
S.B. 34

Good afternoon Chair Manning, Ranking Member Thomas and members of the committee. I am Laura Battocletti, Executive Director of the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on S.B. 34. Let me preface by saying that my comments will **only** address the appropriation contained in the bill for security enhancements at the Statehouse, including the purchase, installation, and replacement of a minimum of 60 high definition cameras and software.

About 10 years ago a security assessment of the capitol square complex, which includes the Statehouse, Senate building, underground parking garage, and the grounds, was conducted. As a result, the Board implemented several changes in 2013, including the security stations at the public entrances, security cameras, both interior and exterior, card readers for after-hours entry, x-raying of all mail and deliveries entering the building, and an increase in the number of Highway Patrol personnel, among other things.

More recently, the CSRAB and Highway Patrol took additional measures, including reducing the number of public entrances, adding x-ray machines at the security stations, and refining the access control policy.

However, a lot has changed in 10 years and certainly the events of the last couple years have taught us that we can and should do more. Technology has advanced tremendously and we need to be able to take advantage of that. Our cameras need to be upgraded to provide better quality. Think of your iPhone and the number of upgrades made to it over the years. We also need to think about where the cameras are located and how to better place them to provide the views we need to not only provide security but to help identify individuals in the event of a breach or trespass.

Other items we are investigating is the installation of ballistic glass, plexiglass or other window protection, improved Senate office security, an upgrade to the access control system, and enhanced exterior lighting.

The Board has directed me to commission another security assessment of the capitol square complex. This assessment will be invaluable moving forward. In the meantime there are steps we can take to increase the security of the Statehouse to ensure the safety of the Members and staff who work here, and the public who come to participate in their government.

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 34. I'm happy to answer any questions.