

# Government Oversight Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-1209

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS  
OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**Title:** ACT.

**Vote Date:** 3/18/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/13/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Government Oversight Committee  
Sen Gadkar-Wilcox  
Rep Napoli

### REASONS FOR BILL:

Adds the prohibition of disclosure of the residential address of public-school teachers under the Freedom of Information Act.

Sec 2 adds a task force to study and make recommendations regarding the current exemptions from disclosure of certain public employee residential addresses under section 1-217 of the general statutes. The task force shall consider whether such exemptions should be expanded to include additional employees.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Adds Sec. 2-task force to study FOIA residential address exemptions.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

#### Colleen Murphy, Executive Director, FOI Commission:

Opposes this bill because they believe section 1-217 protections should only apply to those involved in the criminal justice system. Also opposes this bill because it could pave the way for more industries to receive FOIA protections despite Title 9 statute requiring the disclosure of certain residential addresses.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Kate Dias, President, Connecticut Education Association:**

Supports this bill because they believe it would protect teachers from violent threats which have become commonplace in the education industry on social media, over the phone and even in person. Teachers are public servants and should be protected as such.

### **Travis Woodward, President, CSEA SEIU Local 2001:**

Supports this bill because they feel all civil servants are now subject to a level of threats never seen before. This in turn prevents civil servants from effectively doing their job out of fear of violence and could have a serious long-term impact on society.

### **Ed Hawthorne, President, CT AFL-CIO:**

Supports this legislation because they feel that teachers provide an essential service therefore, they deserve the government's protections from violent threats which have become commonplace within the industry. Fear of violence and retribution is preventing teachers from performing their duties to the best of their abilities, which is holding our children back.

### **Mary Yordon, Norwalk Federation of Teachers President:**

Supports this bill because it protects teachers. Furthermore, they propose that these rights be extended to all employees of school districts, and if persons wish to get in contact with members, that they can do so under the guidelines implemented by their individual districts which protect the chain of command and prevent harassment through preserving civil discourse.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

### **Mike Savino, Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information Co-President:**

Opposes this bill because it provides a false sense of security regarding the public's right to freedom of information. Specifically, the redaction of home addresses from public knowledge will have a negative impact on accessibility of these public servants by public petitioners desiring redress of grievances.

**Reported by: Greg Wolff**

**Date: 3/26/25**