



**Testimony of the Alliance for Quality Education  
at the NYC Council Hearing: Committee on Public Safety  
Wednesday June 10th 2026**

Good afternoon, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Kaiser, and I am the community organizer for the Alliance for Quality Education (AQE). AQE organizes parents pushing for quality public education for all children, regardless of zip code. I am also a parent and former NYC DOE teacher, and I am here to oppose Councilmember Encarnacion's preconsidered bill regarding security perimeters around educational facilities.

On February 25th, hundreds of New Yorkers submitted testimony against Intro 175. At that hearing, Council leadership chose to selectively allow members of the public into City Hall. The hearing was stacked, creating an illusion of support, while many had to wait outside in freezing temperatures for over an hour and then stay late into the evening for their chance to testify against it.

Since then, organized public outcry led the Mayor to veto Intro 175 and pushed Council members to refuse to overturn the veto.

Little has changed since we testified against Intro 175 in February, except that it is now abundantly clear that New Yorkers oppose this proposal. Council leadership has responded by going to great lengths to discourage and circumvent public input. It is highly inappropriate that this hearing was held on the same day as the only opportunity for New Yorkers to share input on the entire executive budget.

There is no legislation needed to protect schools from protests. Families should be free to organize protests and gatherings without the threat of having the NYPD surveil New Yorkers involved, in attendance, and or simply walking nearby. Under Mayoral Control, children and families have limited venues to voice concerns about their education. This proposal would further limit their ability to speak out. In a time of rising authoritarianism, the last thing we need is to restrict or pass bills that intimidate New Yorkers from exercising their First Amendment rights. We should be encouraging peaceful protest, wherever it happens.

The NYPD already has the authority to declare buffer zones, and it has been argued that these bills are an effort toward further transparency around those NYPD actions. If the goal is increased transparency, the bills should be amended to focus only on reporting requirements and public communication. Our [public letter](#), signed by over 50 organizations calls for

amendments to convert the bill into a true transparency measure that “(a) requires the NYPD to publish its policies and practices for responding to educational facilities and (b) specifies that such responses should comply with the 2020 Summer Protest Settlement Agreement and the First Amendment protections on speech, assembly, and protest.”

We can take steps to make schools safer for everyone by mandating anti-bias and anti-racist training for educators, increasing mental health supports in schools, and teaching the truth about oppression and protest so that students learn how to stand up against hate and injustice. The knee-jerk reaction to limit expression and increase police involvement in the name of safety will do nothing to address the root causes of hate in our society, and it will increase the risk of violence at the hands of police and others. We know what will happen if these bills pass. Black, brown, and immigrant communities, who are historically targeted and surveilled, will have their voices suppressed and their bodies battered, all in the name of, “the law”.

The coalition that has come together to advocate with one voice against these proposals speaks for itself. Faith organizations, labor groups, and civil rights experts, have joined with student and family organizations in opposition to increased policing outside of schools.

Thank you.