

February 8, 2026

Written Testimony in Support of House Study Bill 644
Submitted by the Electronic Security Association

Chair Bloomingdale and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taylor Criddle, and I serve as Vice President of Advocacy and Public Affairs for the Electronic Security Association (ESA). Founded in 1948, ESA is the nation's largest trade association representing the electronic security and life-safety industry. Our member companies design, install, integrate, and monitor intrusion detection, fire alarm, video surveillance, and electronic access control systems for residential, commercial, industrial, and governmental clients. Collectively, ESA members employ more than 500,000 professionals and help protect more than 34 million homes and businesses nationwide.

ESA appreciates the committee's consideration of House Study Bill 644, and we support the bill's intent to provide members of the General Assembly and statewide elected officials with a clear, transparent mechanism to reasonable security-related expenses tied to public service.

Across the country, candidates and elected officials are facing heightened threats and security concerns directly connected to their public roles. HSB 644 recognizes that reality by authorizing reimbursement for professionally installed home security systems and ongoing monitoring services, while maintaining accountability through receipt-based reimbursement and defined caps. This approach promotes safety without undermining public trust.

We also appreciate that the bill treats security as a preventative measure, rather than requiring a specific incident or documented threat before protections can be put in place. From a life-safety perspective, this is both prudent and responsible. That said, ESA respectfully encourages the committee to consider adjustments to the reimbursement caps, particularly the one-time installation limit. Based on real-world costs for professionally installed security systems, including alarms, cameras, access control, and integration, the current **\$5,000 cap may fall short** of what is required to implement meaningful protection. Returning closer to the originally contemplated **\$10,000 cap** would better reflect current market realities and ensure officials can deploy effective, compliant security solutions.

ESA stands ready to serve as a technical resource as this legislation moves forward. We support HSB 644 and believe that with modest refinements, it can provide Iowa's public officials with the clarity, safety, and accountability this policy is intended to deliver.

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor Criddle
Vice President of Advocacy and Public Affairs
Electronic Security Association