

OPPOSE Bill 46-20

Dear County Council Members:

Please oppose Bill 46-20, Elimination of School Resource Officers.

Not only do School Resource Officers help protect the school against potential outside bad actors, they can have a stabilizing effect on the school environment. In December, [the Montgomery County Association of Administrators and Principals wrote to the school board urging it to continue the program](#). All 25 MCPS high school principals and the leaders of three special schools support keeping SROs.

I have spoken with many parents and even some school resource officers who feel that having SROs in schools is a positive benefit. I have spoken with teachers who feel their effectiveness in the classroom is compromised by students who misbehave and who have discipline problems, including physically assaulting teachers who try to enforce school rules. Kids can't learn if their classmates are acting out, teachers are afraid to discipline them, and if they feel there is no one to turn to when they are being bullied. By being part of the school environment, SRO's can form positive bonds with students, earning their trust, and helping prevent more serious problems from developing.

Removing SROs will not solve the problem of more black and brown students comprising a disproportionate share of arrests in schools. I suggest you peel back the layers of the onion to find out why that is occurring rather than jumping to a solution that will not solve the underlying problem and even make it worse.

Sincerely,

Kathy Gugulis
Gaithersburg