Written Testimony of Kathleen Clair in support of Bill 46-20
February 2, 2020

I am a parent of a second grader at Glenallan Elementary School and I write in strong support
of Bill 46-20, Police - School Resource Officers - Prohibited.

I support this bill because Black and brown students in Montgomery County are arrested at
disproportionate rates. I support this bill because there is no need for disciplinary, health, and
emotional issues, particularly among children, to become criminal ones.

And I support this bill because school should be a place where students feel safe to learn and
grow, not a place to be constantly surveilled and put at risk of potentially violent and
traumatizing interactions with police.

Just this week, we have seen video of police pepper spraying a handcuffed nine year old girl for
the offense of, in the officer’s own words, “acting like a child.” It is hard to think of a clearer
example of why police have no business being in schools. Video also circulated this week of
police slamming a high school girl to the ground. Countless other incidents of adult police
officers perpetrating violence against children over the years should be all the reason we need
to question the premise that police in schools make students safer. For too many students, it is
just the opposite.

Let’s let kids be kids.

Kathleen Clair

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