

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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