

Testimony in opposition of Bill 7-21, Police - School Resource Officers

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Hello Montgomery Council Members,

My name is Kent Lin and I am a senior at Springbrook high school, which is located in Silver Spring. I am writing testimony in opposition to bill 7-21, on behalf of IMPACT Silver Spring, where I serve as an intern.

Although I have never experienced a traumatic experience with school resource officers, I do see how school resource officers only make the school environment worse. Many students, including myself, avoid the school resource officer as I view him as a potential threat since he carries a firearm. Even though he is a police officer, there is always a chance that the school resource officer may make a bad judgement, which could potentially lead to a dangerous situation. I also have many friends of color that also express their discontent with having a school resource officer in the building.

A school resource officer is hired and appointed to a school with the intention to protect the school and its students, but I feel that is unnecessary. The security department that the school already has implemented does their job well, without possessing a firearm or weapon, and I have seen many students who actually interact and have a good relationship with the school security.

By removing school resource officers from school buildings, I am confident to say that the students will feel much safer, and the officer can be assigned to a different task that actually needs police supervision.

Also during my time in high school, I have never seen a school resource officer do anything different than a regular security worker for the school. Expenses can be reduced by removing school resource officers, which means that there are more funds for other programs that can benefit students and teachers.

Thank you for your time,

Kent Lin