



Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: House Bill 522 – School Resource Officers – Prohibited Conduct

Position: Support

Dear Chairman Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Maryland School Psychologists' Association (MSPA), a professional organization representing about 500 school psychologists in Maryland. We advocate for the social-emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and families across the state.

We believe that the changes made by this bill would drastically improve the climate in Maryland schools. Currently, school administrators, with good intentions, may inadvertently involve SROs in enforcing school policies and rules, which leads to unnecessary negative student-police interactions. Similarly, some SROs may feel that it is their responsibility to enforce such policies and rules on their own. Such negative interactions tend to disproportionately affect students of color. Specifically addressing the purview of SROs in this way, helps to address these concerns.

MSPA supports HB 522 and we urge a favorable report. If we can provide any additional information or be of any assistance, please contact us at legislative@mSPAonline.org or our policy consultant, Rachael Faulkner, at rfaulkner@policypartners.net or 410-693-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle Potter".

Kyle Potter, Ph.D., NCSP
Chair, Legislative Committee
Maryland School Psychologists' Association