

PAUL D. CORDERMAN
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Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2024

Senate Budget & Tax Committee
Chair Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 1077 – Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures – School Security Employees

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 1077. The School Resource Officers Adequate Funding Grant state allocation amount has been set at \$10 million dollars since its inception in 2018 as a part of the Safe to Learn Act. This grant fund can only be utilized to hire sworn law enforcement officers as SROs to provide adequate coverage. Currently there isn't flexibility to hire secondary School Security Employees, such as retired law enforcement officers.

SB 1077 will increase this grant allocation from \$10 million to \$15 million in fiscal 2026, and to \$20 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. Additionally, it expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees so that school systems have more flexibility in hiring security staff in our schools. Finally, there is a change to allocated funding on per pupil basis as opposed to a per school basis. However, we have submitted an amendment to change that back to the language in the original statute.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 1077.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul D. Corderman'.

Paul D. Corderman
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties