



TESTIMONY FOR SB0245
PUBLIC SCHOOLS – SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS – REQUIREMENTS AND
PROHIBITIONS

Bill Sponsor: Senator Ellis

Committee: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: **FAVORABLE**

I am submitting this testimony in favor of SB0245 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

Metal detectors. Police in Schools. This is what our children have to put up with every day that they are in school. These things don't seem to affect some students, but for others, the fact that there are officers walking around every day has a very large effect on them. Imagine having a police officer walking the halls with a gun, who can decide to insert themselves in any situation. That is intimidating.

Data shows that certain children receive far more attention and 'discipline' than other children in school, which can affect their performance and over time, cause them to disengage from school. We send our children to school to learn. We should remove officers from the school unless they are specifically called in by the principal to resolve an altercation that involves violence or the threat of violence. Otherwise, they should not be there.

We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.