

SB0245 Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Requirements and Prohibitions

Stance: Support

Testimony: My name is Adiena C. Britt and I reside in the 45th Legislative District of Baltimore City. I am writing to lend my support for Bill SB0245 limiting the access of School Resource Officers to school buildings, limiting the ability to participate in disciplinary measures, and adjustments to the uniform and gun wearing appearance of these officers.

As the mother of a child that suffered a traumatic instance of police brutality in our own home, having School Resource Officers that look and act like a police force within the school building was extremely traumatic for him. With thousands of our students experiencing negative encounters with law enforcement over the course of their lifetimes, through no fault of their own; school buildings should be a sanctuary free from the imagery of Law Enforcement personnel. As they are currently utilized, School Resource Officers only serve to reinforce the notion of school to prison pipeline which negatively impacts Black and Brown children at far higher rates than their White counterparts. Situations that used to be handled by school administrators and parents are now handled by a make-shift "police force". I would love to see the School Resource Officers Department disbanded, and removed completely from our Schools; but if this is the compromise, I'm all for it. I don't feel that we should be forcing our State's children to become acclimated to a form of police state where they are seeing Law Enforcement housed in every place that they interact with during their lifetimes.

Thank you.

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