

**HB 1089 – Primary and Secondary Education – Expansion of Mental Health  
Services and Prohibition of School Resource Officers  
(Police Free Schools Act)  
Hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee  
March 3, 2021**

**Testimony of Timothy D. Williams II**

**Position: SUPPORT**

My name is Timothy Dale Williams II and I am a high school teacher who has taught in Prince George's County public schools for eight years. I am currently teaching at Northwestern High School where I have been for the past four years. As a Black man, I am disgusted at the many instances of police brutality I see directed towards Black and Brown people in Prince Georges County and America as a whole. At this moment several Black and Latino police officers have a lawsuit against the Prince George's County police department over rampant racial discrimination throughout that department. How are Black and Brown kids supposed to feel safe with police when their parents are being racially profiled and abused by police? The mostly Black and Hispanic students that I teach don't feel safe when they see a police officer. Why does so called safety rest on the injustice of Black and Brown children in Maryland? During the 2018-2019 school year 61 percent of student arrests were for non-violent offenses in Prince George's County. This means that there is a problem with the way policing is being done in schools. As a teacher, I would like to see more counselors, violence interrupters and mental health specialists at schools instead of police officers. This is why I am in favor of the Police-Free Schools Act (HB 1089).