

February 1, 2021

Dear Delegate Wilkins,

I am writing to you in favor of Bill HB0496 (Counselors Not Cops Act) to support our students with mental health care services rather than continue to shuttle them through the school to prison pipeline.

Children should be able to go to school to learn, grow, and be supported with appropriate resources. Having police in schools has not been shown to make schools or students safer and can actually cause harm to students, particularly students of color and students with disabilities who are more likely to be arrested by police.

Let's redirect these funds to support our students by equipping their schools with mental health workers, social workers, community school coordinators and other programs and services.

As a constituent who is supportive of our students' future, I favorably support this legislation.

Thank you,

Colline Emmanuelle
Maryland resident and community member