

Monday, February 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of Baltimore City and District 41. I am also a parent of a Baltimore City Schools student. I am testifying in **strong opposition** to **SB0454, Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required**.

This bill proposes requiring that School Resource Officers (SROs) in Maryland public schools be armed with firearms. In no uncertain terms, I find this proposal quite literally insane. Having recently experienced an incident in which a firearm was discovered at my child's school, the LAST thing in the world I want is MORE guns at my child's school. That worst case scenario incident was safely and efficiently resolved by skilled school staff, who have since activated effective and nonviolent strategies for supporting the school community as a whole. Still more guns would very likely have only escalated a potentially dangerous situation or at minimum traumatized more already frightened students and school staff.

Purposefully bringing guns into schools is very obviously not the answer to the problem of violence at schools. Gun violence is a scourge on American society and in our schools—adding to the arsenal of weapons already in schools will not make this better. The remedy and the ailment for guns in schools cannot possibly be the same thing: guns in schools.

As evidenced by the completely horrifying and morally bankrupt frequency of school shootings in our country, it is abundantly clear to any reasonable person that guns do not make schools or communities safer. I am truly shaken and disturbed that this legislation has even been presented. Again, in a literal sense of the term, it seems insane to suggest this as a solution to gun violence.

Furthermore, while gun violence at any specific school is somewhat of a statistical improbability, requiring that School Resource Officers are armed would guarantee that children are exposed to people with firearms every single day in an environment in which they should feel safe and included. Students' learning and emotional regulation will almost certainly be disrupted and negatively impacted by the regular present of a militarized and armed presence at their schools. If passed, this proposal would in fact only further exacerbate the harmful impacts of guns on American children.

Again, in the strongest possible terms, I wholeheartedly oppose **SB0454, Public Schools - School Resource Officers - Firearms Required**. Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Katherine Blaha  
Baltimore, MD 21209