

Feb. 28, 2024

To the MN Senate Finance committee members,

Thank you for making resolving the SRO issue your top priority when returning to the 2024 session, I only wish it would've been addressed sooner so the schools didn't have to go without their SRO's for over 5 months of this school year. As a parent of a student that goes to the Osseo High School, which has over 2000 students in attendance, I know the SROs were missed and the administration, students and parents wanted them back ASAP.

When my son told me that he felt like there were less gang members at his current school than the one he went to last year, it wasn't much consolation, because we care about the safety of the students at his previous school too. I know the school administrators do what they can to maintain a safe environment, but it is completely different, having a trained officer's eyes and ears on students that practice a violent lifestyle, than staff that have a wide range of other issues to deal with. The relationships that highly trained officers who also have the demeanor and personality to fit right into the school environment, is crucial to the safety in the schools and peace of mind for the parents that send their children to them.

We appreciate the work the SROs do and want them in our schools with the ability to confidently do their jobs that they are trained for. I have volunteered on the Osseo school district's safety and security management committee for the last year and a half and been able to meet many of our SROs, they do an excellent job, love the students, and the students and staff love having them in our schools. I've also learned that the Osseo school district has already implemented a "model policy" which has been working well for them for many years. In the contracts the district has with the Maple Grove and Brooklyn Park Police departments, they require all SROs attend training specific to their role within in 1 year of appointment to the position. The district's preferred training is conducted by the [National Association of School Resource Officers](#) (NASRO). SROs either attend the

basic or advanced SRO course depending on their time in the position prior to the training. They have also had several SROs attend the NASRO training on adolescent mental health. If the NASRO training is not available, the departments can also send the SROs to training conducted by the [Minnesota School Safety Center](#).

Thank you for working with the police departments and the schools to make sure this happens for ALL MN schools, who wish to place SROs in their schools.

Best Regards,

Kelly Janssen

Brooklyn Park, MN