

## **Delegation - SRO Program – 26 August 2020**

My name is Sophie Chen and I graduated from Gloucester High School in 2017. I went to a school where we struggled to receive new art supplies, new textbooks were not common, and our science labs were outdated. watching the school prioritize spending money on a police officer who does nothing but roam the hallways and put fear into students. To me displays a significant waste of money and resources.

At my school when a police officer walked by students, they would part ways in the hallway and avoid direct contact with the officer. This display shows the level of distrust that students have in police. Schools need to put money into social workers and counsellors who are trained professionals and can help children cope with their struggles. A student who is getting into fights or has been found with drugs does not need to be criminalized, they need help. They need someone to talk to.

As a student who used counselling resources in high school, I know how important it is to know you are reaching out to an adult who will try to help you instead of punishing you.

Overall, the presence of police is not necessary in schools. Police do harm and distract from the learning.

Thank you for defending students.

Sophie Chen