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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0308**

April 11, 2023

Superintendent and Governing Board  
Peoria Unified School District  
6330 West Thunderbird Road  
Glendale, AZ 85306

Dear Superintendent and Governing Board of Peoria Unified School District,

I write to express my support for the Board's efforts to maintain the safety and well-being of PUSD students through the placement of well-trained School Resource Officers (SROs) on all PUSD campuses.

It is critical that we use every available and effective option to protect the physical well-being of kids, teachers, and staff. SROs are one of the most obvious and effective tools to deter armed and dangerous assailants from attacking a school campus.

Besides the obvious benefits to physical safety, SRO presence improves the relationship between law enforcement, schools, and students. It is important to build trust between these three groups to have a safe community. Additionally, SROs pair well with the social workers and counselors currently stationed on school campuses. It is important to have a balanced and all-of-the-above approach when it comes to student safety.

Arizona recently received over \$20 million in federal funding from the Stronger Connections Grant. This funding is distributed by the Arizona Department of Education through the Arizona School Safety Program. This grant money can be used to place SROs on school campuses.

As a federal representative of much of the City of Peoria, I encourage the Board to apply for grant funding under the Arizona School Safety Program to place SROs at PUSD campuses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your service to the City of Peoria.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress