

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** C. A. Denisevich <cdenisevich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 10:11 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony Against H8310

To the members of the House Finance Committee,

I am writing to provide testimony against House Bill 8310. Police officers in schools do not keep children safe. The recent school shooting in Uvalde is a tragedy and should never happen again. While some might think having more police in schools will make them safer, Uvalde is a prime example of how this isn't true. Uvalde has invested 40% of its budget on policing its own police school district police department in a city of about 16,000 residents. Police not only weren't able to prevent the shooting from taking place but also did very little to stop the shooter once the shooting had begun.

Not only do police not keep young people safe, they bully, abuse, and traumatize young people, and prevent them from learning. In a survey of young people with police at their schools, one in five respondents reported police verbally harass or make fun of students and half of respondents reported police taking students out of the classroom. There is a school in Providence, the MET highschool that currently has no SRO's. The school has almost no history of fights since implementing school alternative, "safety teams."

The best defense against a school shooting has always been a positive school climate and engaged learning community. Stop trying to put more police in schools.

Vote no on H8310.

Thank you.

-Alex Denisevich  
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