

## Steven Sepe

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**From:** astrid flynn <bikesflynn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2022 10:16 AM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony Against HB 8310

Hello,

My name is Seamus Flynn and I live in the Wayland Square neighborhood. I oppose HB8310. Numerous examples show that increasing the number of police officers (SROs) in schools does not prevent school shootings: most notably, the Uvalde, TX school district has a well-funded school policing infrastructure that did nothing to prevent the recent tragedy there. In fact, SROs often create a more unsafe environment less conducive to learning, through harassment of students, and their power to arrest students, which disproportionately affects Black and brown students and increases their odds of later being incarcerated. Our schools are immensely under-resourced, and our students in need of academic and mental health support: regardless of the good intentions of some cops, police in general are not trained to provide this type of support. I urge legislators to follow the lead of student activists who for the past few years have worked tirelessly to bring comprehensive student support networks into schools in the form of counseling and mental health services, rather than investing in punitive systems that do nothing to address the root causes of harm.

Thank you for your time,  
Seamus Flynn