

Steven Sepe

From: Christina Lee <clee@blackstoneacademy.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4:16 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Opposition to House Bill 8310

- Hello my name is Christina Lee, and I am a teacher at Blackstone Academy Charter School in Pawtucket. I am writing to oppose House Bill No. 8310. This bill is harmful to students within our schools, especially students of color. My students, who are black and brown and mostly from immigrant families have a healthy fear of police, based on their own lived experience and the experiences of their families. The presence of law enforcement in our school would make them fearful and uncomfortable, which would make the learning environment less efficient. We have seen time and again how SROs can look at students as potential criminals, as opposed to learners and human beings. That sometimes leads to abusive behaviors from SROs. They simply do not have the training necessary to de escalate student behaviors. What we need in schools is more counselors, not armed police. Please do not support or pass House Bill No. 8310!

Christina Lee
N. Scituate, RI