

Steven Sepe

From: Christopher Samih-Rotondo <crotondo@daretowin.org>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 11:48 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Fwd: Testimony Opposing H8310 and H8318

Below please find testimony in opposition to H8310, being heard in House Judiciary tomorrow afternoon.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lee Rodman <lee.rodman@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Jun 12, 2022 at 11:07 PM
Subject: Testimony Opposing H8310 and H8318
To: <crotondo@daretowin.org>

Hello, my name is Lee Rodman. I am a community member living in Providence, RI. I am writing to oppose House Bill No. 8310 and House Bill No. 8318.

Adding SROs and armed security to schools creates more, not less, danger for students. It creates an environment of fear in a place that is meant to nurture children's growth and learning. Research shows that SROs do not prevent school shootings. Instead, "SROs intensify the use of suspensions, expulsions, police referrals, and arrests of students. These effects are consistently over two times larger for Black students than White students. Finally, we observe that SROs increase chronic absenteeism, particularly for students with disabilities."

(<https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/aj21-476.pdf>) So adding more SROs to schools will actively harm students who are most often underestimated—Black students and students with disabilities. Our children deserve better.

I urge you not to pass these dangerous bills, H8310 and H8318, that would bring fear and conflict into schools instead of giving students the support they need and deserve.

Sincerely,
Lee Rodman

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Christopher Samih-Rotondo
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