

Steven Sepe

From: Ellen Zahniser <zahniser.ellen@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 10:12 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Email Testimony in Opposition to H8310

Hello,

My name is Ellen Zahniser and I am a resident of Olneyville.

I am emailing to submit my testimony in opposition to H8310. I demand that this bill NOT pass and that RI keep cops out of schools. It is absolutely imperative that we instead place more counselors, social workers, and adults who are trained in emotional support and conflict resolution in our schools. We absolutely cannot place two more police officers in every RI school! Let's instead offer mental health care to students, restorative justice trainings and sessions, adults in schools who are there to support students rather than to criminalize and arrest them. We need our students to feel safe and cared for - they are not criminals! The youth of PASS PVD and PSU have compiled so much important information that tells us exactly why this bill must NOT pass, so I'm just here to offer my support to them and beg you to please hear the calls of RI students when they ask for counselors instead of cops.

Thank you so much for your consideration of my testimony, and for all of your hard work supporting the citizens of Rhode Island.

Best,
Ellen Zahniser