

Steven Sepe

From: Erickson Comas <ericksoncomas@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 5:15 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Against Bill H8310

To whom it may concern,

My name is Erickson Comas Hernandez and I am a South Providence resident. I am against this bill (H8310), which adds two more police officers to our schools because of many reasons. As a 2019 alum from Classical High School, I got to interact with many students who did not like or feel safe with the police officers in their schools. It made the students feel unsafe and distrustful of the institution that's supposed to be serving them.

If they are funds for police officers then there are funds for counselors. As a student at Brandeis University there's countless of kids I've seen dropped out because of mental health issues stemming from unresolved trauma from their childhood. It is time to act and to prevent cycles of violence, especially on communities of color which will be mostly impacted from resource officer excessive force claims.

Moreover, let's me honest, the job of the resource officers will be to police what students are wearing and to act a form of state sponsored intimidation tactic than it is about protecting children and their lives. If this bill is a response to the shootings in other states; cops do not prevent mass shootings. They'll just get shot too. The response to gun violence should be regulation of gun accessibility, not making students feel like they are in prison.

Best,
Erickson Comas