

Steven Sepe

From: Keith Catone <keithcat16@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 11:49 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Opposition to H8310

Please accept this testimony opposing H8310.

I write as a Cranston resident to express my opposition to the proposed language in H8310 that would require two school resource officers (SROs) to be placed at every public school in RI. I am a Cranston Public Schools parent, educator, and researcher. There is no reputable research that establishes the effectiveness of SROs in improving student and school safety. While it seems an easy and actionable response to the very real concerns that students, families, and educators have about safety in schools, we should be investing in student supports and school initiatives that have demonstrated promise in providing safe and secure learning environments, not more police and policing measures. An additional two counselors and/or adult professionals who are trained in social emotional and mental health supports, for instance, would be a better, more effective use of funds for our schools.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best,
Keith Catone