

Steven Sepe

From: Lauren Zilm <zilm.lauren@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 9:07 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: Vote NO on Bill H8310

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a concerned mother and resident of Cranston. Please vote no on Bill H8310 mandating school resource officers in every RI school. As we saw in Uvalde and other past mass shootings, cops do not prevent school shootings. In fact, according to a Hamline University study of 133 shootings, 3x as many people were killed when an armed officer was present.

Additionally, cops often traumatize students by responding punitively to behavior that would be better mitigated by a counselor. We don't need our children arrested, we need empathetic counselors trained to handle the challenges of children growing up. We don't need more guns in schools, we need gun safety laws that keep guns out of hands that would hurt to begin with. Raising the age required to purchase a rifle to 21, closing the boyfriend loophole ensuring those who commit domestic violence are not allowed access to firearms, and requiring background checks wherever guns are sold are all data-backed measures that would reduce the number of mass shootings.

I urge you to consider meaningful action on gun safety. Mandating school resource officers will not make our schools safer. Ultimately, they will have a negative impact on our children and I certainly do not want my taxes to go to creating an unsafe environment for my child or anyone else's.

Please vote no on Bill H8310.

Sincerely,
Lauren Zilm

Sent from my iPhone