

Steven Sepe

From: Matt Kilcline <mattkilcline@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 6:36 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: H8310 - Against

I'm a local parent and a Rhode Islander purely by choice, born in Michigan and working in Massachusetts. Bills like this make that choice to live in Rhode Island a lot less justifiable.

As I write this, we have the distinctly american luxury of looking back on over 20 years of increasingly routine gun violence in American schools. We have spent that time traumatizing our children by normalizing the violence of school shootings, reducing school to a place to learn reading and math to perform standard tests, and little else. No counselors, no nurse, no librarian or library for that matter, reduced education in every way except math and reading, with the occasional poorly designed and traumatic active shooter drill, with cops in every school. Is this a safer experience? More pleasant? Better for learning? No. So what do we do? Go further down the wrong direction? Where does it end? Does it end when kids are taught from inside of bank vaults, wearing Kevlar? Why do you want this policed experience for school kids when schools routinely run out of paper before the end of the school year in buildings that can barely be maintained? Do you even like children at all?

I would be there in person but I'm caring for our infant daughter while my wife is attending training as a teacher in Massachusetts. For what it's worth, her training is not about guns, because there are other things to teach children in this world.

Thank you.

Matt Kilcline, Rumford, RI