

Steven Sepe

From: susan rohwer <susanrohwer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 2:08 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: No to H8310

Dear House Finance Committee,

I am demanding you vote "NO" to H8310. If we care about our kids' safety we need to invest in counselors--not police--in schools.

As a parent of a 9-year-old at Providence Public Schools, community member, and parent organizer I am terrified for our schools.

Understandably, the events of this past month have reignited concerns and fears about the safety of our children in their schools. However, what scares me the most is the growing calls for increased policing of our schools which will cause more harm than good.

Because years of research and [multiple studies](#) show that police do not prevent school shootings. Rather, [more people die when an officer is present](#) at a shooting than when there isn't.

My daughter said the unannounced presence of police officers in her school in the wake of Uvalde made her and her friends very nervous. She knows how law enforcement interacts with students of color like her and her feelings are backed up by [a lot of data](#). Police have been directly linked to higher drop-out rates; and tend to escalate – rather than defuse – potentially dangerous situations.

What we need is broad investments in social-emotional support like counselors and social workers, for students. For example, my daughter's elementary school has to share a social worker with other schools. Imagine how many social workers we could hire with the money it would cost to staff each school with two "school resource officers."

I urge you to reject this bill and get back to the work of advocating for measures that will truly keep our kids safe: common-sense gun safety laws, investments in social and emotional supports, and afterschool programming to name a few.

Thank you for your time,
Susan Rohwer
Providence, RI

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