

Steven Sepe

From: Tara Nummedal <tara_nummedal@brown.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:44 PM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: opposing H8310

To the Finance Committee:

I write today as a Providence community member and a parent of a 7th grade student at Nathan Bishop Middle School to oppose H8310 and the effort to increase the number of School Resource Officers in our schools.

I understand and share the concern about the safety of our students. I am heartbroken by every school shooting I read about, and have seen first hand the toll that fear of violence takes on the mental health of our children. But the evidence is clear: SROs do not prevent or stop mass shootings, but they DO criminalize student behavior, increasing arrest rates and thus contributing to the school to prison pipeline. Moreover, there is clear evidence that policing in schools disproportionately targets students of color, transforming non-serious youth behavior into criminal behavior. Finally, increasing SROs directs resources away from what our students DO need: more nurses, social workers, counselors, and school psychologists. We need to support their physical and mental health, now more than ever, not criminalize them.

Please listen to what our students are asking for -- education not incarceration. Invest in our kids.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Tara Nummedal

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