

## Steven Sepe

---

**From:** Shprecher, Yuna <yuna\_shprecher@brown.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 7:25 PM  
**To:** House Finance Committee  
**Subject:** Written Testimony Against H8310

Hi,  
My name is Yuna Shprecher and I am writing to voice my concern regarding Bill H8310, which has been proposed by the House.

The mass shooting in Uvalde makes clear that the function of school police is NOT safety. In that instance, police stood by despite this being one of the most crucial moments in which they should have acted. Police are unable to prevent harm nor do they increase the overall safety of a school. Research/studies on police in schools confirm that police do not create safety, they create harm.

We can't let history repeat itself. After each school mass shooting, the response to valid safety concerns is to add police, security guards, metal detectors, and surveillance cameras to school. And yet school shootings continue to grow in frequency. This is a reactive approach that continues to fail our young people and families.

The best defense against a school shooting has always been a positive school climate and engaged learning community. This includes dismantling school policing, investing in comprehensive mental and emotional health services and support staff, and an expansion of restorative justice practices. It also includes gun control that does not result in increased policing of Black and Brown people or people with disabilities. Strong communities and positive environments are our best defense against the manifestation of isolation, white supremacy and the pro-gun culture of America.

Please keep these facts in mind when considering this bill and its harmful ramifications if passed.

Thank you,  
Yuna Shprecher