

Date of Hearing: 3/8/22

TESTIMONY ON HB613- POSITION: UNFAVORABLE
Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase

TO: Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Change, and members of the Appropriations Committee

FROM: Barbara Schaffer

My name is Barbara Schaffer. I am a resident of District 17. I am submitting this testimony against HB#613, Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - Increase.

As a former teacher, a member of Chabad, and a concerned citizen, I support police-free schools and I'm against spending taxpayer money on policing in our schools. Vulnerable youth and teenagers deserve to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. Mental health support is what is needed. Adding more money to the SRO fund through HB613 does not keep students safe.

School Resource Officers (SROs) react to situations. Their solutions often end children's education and socialization opportunities and push them into the criminal justice system. We need to keep students in school and spend those dollars on resources to help students work through their challenges. Statistics show that the arrests and incarcerations affect students of color and those with disabilities disproportionately. I cannot condone laws and measures that don't support racial equality and the well-being of our children.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report of HB613.