



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

June 10, 2022

The Honorable Ned Lamont  
State Capitol  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford CT, 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

The recent tragedy in Uvalde, Texas is a painful reminder that we have ongoing mental health and security concerns across our great nation. Legislative changes were made after Connecticut's own horrific school shooting that took place in Sandy Hook over 9 years ago. While we have made some progress in making our schools safer, we have fallen short of ensuring adequate protection. We ask that the state help provide funding for School Resource Officers.

School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn police officers whose primary function is to ensure a safe school environment for students and staff. They serve as role models and mentors to the kids and identify at-risk children for crime, behavioral health or substance abuse problems so appropriate intervention services can be administered - potentially averting life-threatening circumstances. However, in instances where police action is needed, an SRO also serves as the first line of defense, able to confront and handle deadly force encounters immediately.

Unfortunately, not every municipality can afford to employ School Resource Officers. Despite legislation passed to allow municipalities or local and regional boards of education to employ P.O.S.T. certified retired police officers (Public Act 13-188) and eliminate the time limits on how long retired police officers can be re-employed without affecting their retirement pension benefits (Public Act 22-39), few municipalities have been able to hire SROs.

In the same bi-partisan spirit that legislators acted in the past concerning school safety issues, we ask that the state consider funding a 1:1 matching grant program which will provide municipalities additional resources so they may hire SROs.

We have learned already that the courts have given states great flexibility to determine how ARPA dollars are used. If the remaining funds from ARPA are not sufficient, we urge a deliberative bipartisan process to commit some of our surplus to aid and assist the safety of the children and educators. We do not claim to have all solutions, but this is one action that will bring immediate results.

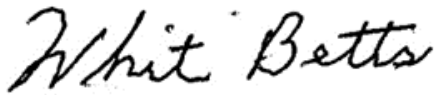
Thank you,



Representative Tim Ackert



Representative Harry Arora



Representative Whit Betts



Representative Mark Anderson



Representative Mitch Bolinsky



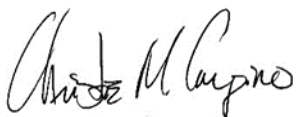
Representative Bill Buckbee



Representative Vincent Candelora



Representative Devin Carney



Representative Christie Carpino



Representative Jay Case



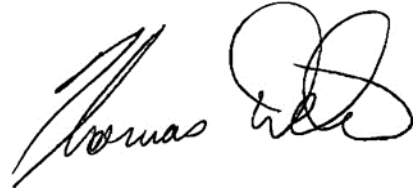
Representative Holly Cheeseman



Representative Patrick Callahan



Representative Anne Dauphinais



Representative Tom Delnicki



Representative Laura Devlin



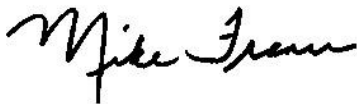
Representative Doug Dubitsky



Representative Charles Ferraro



Representative Craig Fishbein



Representative Mike France



Representative Kimberly Fiorello



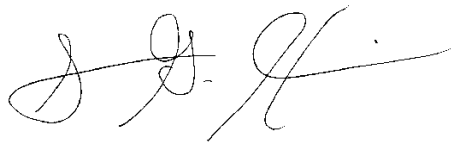
Representative Robin Green



Representative Irene Haines



Representative Carol Hall



Representative Steve Harding



Representative Cindy Harrison



Representative Rick Hayes



Representative Greg Howard



Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria



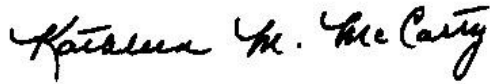
Representative Kathy Kennedy



Representative David Labriola



Representative Brian Lanoue



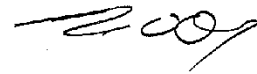
Representative Kathleen McCarty



Representative Ben McGorty



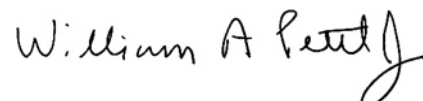
Representative Tammy Nuccio



Representative Tom O'Dea



Representative Cara Pavalock-D'Amato



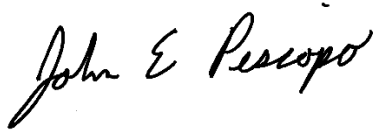
Representative William Petit



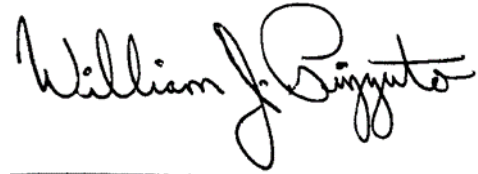
Representative Jason Perillo



Representative Joe Polletta



Representative John Piscopo



Representative Bill Pizzuto



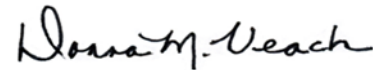
Representative Rosa Rebimbas



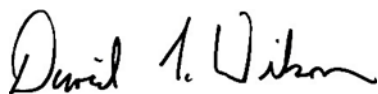
Representative Tony Scott



Representative Dave Rutigliano



Representative Donna Veach



Representative David Wilson



Representative Terrie Wood



Representative David Yaccarino



Representative Tami Zawistowski

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Zullo". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the "Z" and "L" being particularly prominent.

Representative Joe Zullo

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lezlye Zupkus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a distinct loop at the end of the "s".

Representative Lezlye Zupkus