

Roberta DiMezza

From: Jonathan Newkirk <newkirkjonathan3833@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2024 12:16 PM
To: Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica; Sen. Valverde, Bridget G.; Sen. Pearson, Ryan W.; Sen. Ruggerio, Dominick J.; Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.; Rep. Blazejewski, Christopher R.; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H7051, H7216, H7308

Hello Sir & Ma'am,

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on the recently introduced legislation below. As a life-long resident, I also want to thank you for your efforts to make Rhode Island an amazing state to live in.

H7051 No Gun Ranges within one mile of any school or sporting field. AGAINST

- This bill may have unintended public safety ramifications. *See below.*
- RI is a small state. Many legal gun ranges would be forced to close as a result of this bill.
- As a hiker and resident living outside urban areas, I am concerned about the increased likelihood of someone resorting to using the woods to practice firearms as there would not be enough legal ranges available. This immediately makes me fear where I hike or where I take my children to hike or where my kids may be mountain biking. DEM and local authorities cannot patrol everywhere all the time so keeping our current ranges open is reasonable. I don't think we should create a situation where we need to wear orange safety vests year round just to go outdoors.
- Most recreational firearm use at ranges takes place during the weekend when schools are empty, while many enjoy outdoor recreation on weekends (biking, hiking, etc).

H7216: Requiring law enforcement to submit seized and crime involved firearms. AGAINST

- This bill, as written, appears to give a broad definition to "crime gun". The way it's written it appears, any gun a police officer sees he/she could suspect as having been used in a criminal offense. While I support police efforts to prevent crime, this definition could have an overreaching effect on the law abiding public.

- From 11-47-2 Definitions:

(5) "Crime gun" means any firearm used in a crime or identified by law enforcement as suspected of having been used in a criminal offense.

H7308 Arming Campus Police to protect Students SUPPORT

- While I support this bill, please include ***mandatory and regular de-escalating training in addition to firearms training***. I have two kids whom I feel both safer and uneasy with this bill. While I believe a gun is a reasonable tool for campus police to have, we cannot allow it to be considered as the primary tool in all situations.

Thank you again,

Jonathan Newkirk, East Greenwich