

## Anabella Mayorga

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**From:** Chris Morin <cmorin543@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 10:04 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bill 5890

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 5890 – Restrictions on Firearm Possession by Minors

Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am respectfully writing to urge you to vote NO on House Bill 5890, which seeks to impose additional restrictions on firearm possession by minors, even under closely supervised conditions. As an Eagle Scout who grew up learning critical life skills and responsibility at Camp Yawgoog, I can personally attest to the immense value that responsible, supervised firearm education and training provide to young people.

My time spent at the rifle and shotgun ranges at Camp Yawgoog stands out clearly in my memory as profoundly educational and formative. Those programs were not merely recreational; they instilled discipline, responsibility, safety, respect, and confidence—core values that have shaped my character as a responsible adult and firearm owner. Under the careful guidance and supervision of trained adults, I and thousands of other scouts learned the importance of firearm safety, proper handling, and respect for firearms.

House Bill 5890 directly threatens these types of youth educational programs by severely limiting minors' access to firearms even under carefully controlled and responsible conditions. Current Rhode Island law already appropriately balances safety with educational opportunities, allowing minors to participate safely in lawful and supervised firearm activities, such as scouting programs, competitive shooting, ROTC, and hunting education.

Implementing this restrictive bill could significantly harm longstanding programs like those at Camp Yawgoog, discouraging participation and potentially forcing such valuable initiatives to end altogether. This would not enhance public safety; rather, it would deprive future generations of important educational experiences that significantly reduce accidents and promote safe firearm handling practices.

Research consistently shows that structured firearm safety training programs for youth greatly decrease firearm-related accidents and incidents. Organizations like the Boy Scouts of America, through camps like Yawgoog, have long contributed positively to community safety by responsibly teaching these critical skills. HB 5890 undermines these proven methods of responsible education without providing tangible safety improvements.

Instead of unnecessary restrictions, Rhode Island should continue to support and encourage responsible educational opportunities where young individuals learn about firearm safety and responsibility from qualified mentors. My experience as an Eagle Scout taught me firsthand how critical these supervised programs are—not only for developing safe firearm practices but for fostering character, discipline, and respect in young people.

I urge you, therefore, to vote NO on HB 5890 and preserve the valuable youth firearm safety programs that have positively impacted generations of Rhode Islanders, myself included.

Thank you sincerely for considering this deeply important matter.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Christopher Morin

Coventry, Rhode Island