

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Rep. Lombardi, John J.; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Leonidas Sanchez; Rep. Cherie Cruz; Rep. Jennifer Stewart; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7133 — Domestic Abuse — Firearm Surrender

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my opposition to RI 2026 H7133, the "Domestic Abuse — Firearm Surrender" bill. I understand the intent behind this legislation, but I strongly believe that it will have unintended consequences that will negatively impact many Rhode Island families.

Firstly, I am concerned that this bill will lead to an increase in false accusations and abuse of the system. In our state, we have seen cases where individuals have been falsely accused of domestic abuse, only to have their reputations and livelihoods destroyed. By setting firearm surrender procedures for domestic abuse respondents, we risk exacerbating this problem and putting innocent people's rights at risk. For instance, I recall a case in our community where a father was wrongly accused of domestic abuse and lost custody of his children. It took him years to clear his name and rebuild his life. I fear that this bill will create more situations like this, causing irreparable harm to families and individuals.

Secondly, I believe that this bill will disproportionately affect law-abiding gun owners who are already facing significant hurdles in exercising their Second Amendment rights. Many Rhode Islanders rely on firearms for hunting, self-defense, and sport shooting, and this bill will only serve to further restrict their ability to do so. I have spoken to several friends and neighbors who are avid hunters and have expressed their concerns about how this bill will impact their ability to provide for their families. By targeting domestic abuse respondents, we risk creating a slippery slope where law-abiding citizens are unfairly targeted and penalized.

Thirdly, I am concerned that this bill will not effectively address the root causes of domestic abuse. While I understand that firearms can be a factor in domestic violence, they are not the primary cause. We need to focus on addressing the underlying issues, such as mental health, substance abuse, and social support, rather than simply restricting access to firearms. I have seen firsthand the impact that domestic violence can have on families and communities, and I believe that we need to take a more holistic approach to addressing this issue.

Lastly, I believe that this bill will put an undue burden on our already overburdened law enforcement agencies. By requiring them to seize and store firearms, we are taking resources away from more pressing needs, such as community policing and victim support services. I have spoken to several law enforcement officers who have expressed their concerns about how this bill will impact their ability to respond to emergencies and provide support to victims of domestic abuse.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to vote no on RI 2026 H7133. I appreciate your dedication to public service and your commitment to keeping our communities safe. I hope that you will take the time to consider the potential consequences of this bill and work towards finding more effective solutions to address domestic abuse.

Thank you for your time and service,
Jonathan Newkirk

East Greenwich, RI