

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 PM  
**To:** Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Thomas Noret; Rep. Roberts, Sherry; Rep. Nathan Biah; Rep. Earl Read; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Rep. Hull, Raymond A.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7128 — Armed Campus Police Mandate

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my strong opposition to RI 2026 H7128, the "Armed Campus Police Mandate" bill, which would require campus police at public higher educational institutions to be armed. I believe this bill would have unintended and far-reaching consequences that would negatively impact the safety and well-being of our students, faculty, and staff.

There are several reasons why I oppose this bill. Firstly, introducing more firearms into campus environments can lead to increased risks of accidental discharge, mishandling, or even violent confrontations. This is particularly concerning in situations where students may be experiencing mental health crises or substance abuse issues. Secondly, arming campus police could create a culture of fear and mistrust among students, particularly those from marginalized communities who may already feel vulnerable or targeted by law enforcement. Thirdly, the cost of implementing and maintaining armed campus police forces would be substantial, diverting resources away from critical educational programs and support services that benefit our students. Lastly, I am concerned that this bill does not address the root causes of campus violence, such as lack of access to mental health services, social isolation, and socioeconomic disparities.

As a member of this community, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that our public higher educational institutions can have on the lives of Rhode Island families. I have friends and neighbors whose children have attended the University of Rhode Island and the Community College of Rhode Island, and I have witnessed the transformative power of education in their lives. That's why I am passionate about ensuring that our campuses remain safe, welcoming, and supportive environments for all students.

I urge you to vote no on H7128 and instead work towards more effective and evidence-based solutions to address campus safety concerns. I would like to thank you for your dedication to public service and for considering the concerns of your constituents.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI