

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 5:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Fellela, Deborah A.; Rep. Messier, Mary; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Lima, Charlene; Rep. Kazarian, Katherine S.; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7145 — Dillon's Law — Safe Storage Renaming

**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 strong support for RI 2026 H7145, "Dillon's Law — Safe Storage Renaming." I firmly believe that this bill is a crucial step towards promoting responsible gun ownership and preventing unnecessary tragedies in our state. By renaming the safe-storage statute section to include 'Dillon's Law,' we can raise awareness about the importance of proper gun storage and its impact on our communities.

As a longtime Rhode Island resident, I have seen firsthand the devastating consequences of gun accidents and suicides that could have been prevented with proper storage. This is why I am convinced that H7145 is a vital piece of legislation. For instance, a study by the Rhode Island Department of Health found that in 2020, there were over 100 reported cases of unintentional firearms injuries in our state, with many of these incidents involving children and teenagers. By renaming the safe-storage statute, we can send a clear message that responsible gun ownership is a top priority in Rhode Island.

Furthermore, I believe that this bill will have a positive impact on our state's efforts to reduce gun violence. By promoting safe storage practices, we can reduce the risk of guns falling into the wrong hands, whether it's a child or a person with malicious intentions. Additionally, this bill will help to educate gun owners about their responsibilities and the importance of storing their firearms safely. I have seen this firsthand in my community, where local gun owners have come together to promote responsible gun ownership and safe storage practices.

As a member of this community, I have also seen the impact that gun accidents can have on families and loved ones. A few years ago, a family in our town experienced a tragic accident involving an unsecured firearm, resulting in the loss of a young life. This incident was a stark reminder of the importance of responsible gun ownership and the need for stronger safe storage laws. I urge you to vote yes on H7145, as it is a crucial step towards preventing such tragedies in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you for your dedication to public service and for considering my perspective on this important issue. I urge you to vote yes on H7145 and support the renaming of the safe-storage statute section to include 'Dillon's Law.' This bill has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of Rhode Island residents, and I believe it is a crucial step towards promoting responsible gun ownership and reducing gun violence in our state.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich