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April 8, 2026

Representative Carol Hagan McEntee
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
House Lounge State House
Providence, RI 02903

H.7035 Position: Opposed

Re: H.7035 One-Gun-a-Month

Dear Chair Hagan McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") is the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 10,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding Rhode Island sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout the state. This is to notify you of the NSSF's strong opposition to H.7035.

This is to notify you of our strong opposition to the rationing of a constitutional right with one-gun-a-month.

The introduction of H.7035, legislation that seeks to prohibit law-abiding citizens from purchasing more than one handgun a month, hinders lawful commerce in the state, particularly that of small "mom and pop" businesses. Furthermore, according to government studies and statistics, the legislation stands no hope of reducing crime. Some of the many problems associated with one-handgun-a-month measures:

- According to government studies, including an October 2003 study by the Centers for Disease Control, One-Gun-A-Month has never been proven to reduce crime.
- After implementing One-Gun-A-Month in South Carolina and seeing no decrease in violence or the level of handgun crime, the state legislature appropriately repealed the measure.
- Anti-gun lobbyist Robert Ricker, in sworn testimony in a trial against members of the firearm industry (NAACP v. A.A. Arms, Inc.et al.) stated he did not support One-Gun-A-Month legislation, as it did not curb crime.
- Federal firearms dealers must report any and all sales of more than one handgun (including any handgun sold within a five-day period of another handgun) to both ATF and local authorities by close of that business day.
- California, New Jersey and Maryland all have One-Gun-A-Month purchase limits yet have seen exponential increases in crime and homicide over the last 5 years.

- The only other state with One-Gun-A-Month law is Virginia which has a homicide rate that reflects the national average and has been cyclical in nature over the past decade.

If the goal is to reduce straw-purchasers' ability to illegally obtain firearms, then one-gun-a-month is not the answer. The Commonwealth of Virginia has one-gun-a-month, yet various gun control groups continually cite Virginia as a source state for illegal firearms in the Northeast. How is that even possible if they have a prohibition on "bulk" purchases?

This legislation does not only try to limit law abiding citizens from purchasing firearms from federally licensed dealers but also would remove the ability of private citizens with licenses to conduct private transactions, would make it impossible to transfer estate firearms, and negatively impact the business of federally licensed retailers.

H.7035 is aimed at the wrong group of people and seeks to control the lawful behavior of Rhode Island's citizens. This legislation is a solution in search of a problem.

For the above stated reasons, the National Shooting Sports Foundation opposes H.7035. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this important, public policy discussion and to make known our views. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake McGuigan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jake McGuigan