

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Rep. Thomas Noret; Rep. David Place; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. Earl Read; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7553 — Carry Permit Review & Appeal Process

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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 H7553, the "Carry Permit Review & Appeal Process" bill. I believe this legislation is a crucial step towards ensuring that law-abiding citizens in Rhode Island have a fair and transparent process for appealing carry permit denials.

I firmly support H7553 because it addresses a long-standing issue that affects many Rhode Islanders who wish to exercise their right to self-defense. For instance, the current system can be overly restrictive, with denials often being made without clear justification or recourse. This bill would establish a review and appeal process, providing a safeguard against arbitrary denials and ensuring that permit applicants are treated fairly. Furthermore, this legislation would help to reduce the burden on our courts, as it would provide an alternative to litigation for those seeking to appeal a denial. Additionally, it would promote transparency and accountability within the permitting process, which is essential for maintaining public trust in our government.

As someone who has lived in Rhode Island for many years, I have seen firsthand the impact that restrictive permitting laws can have on our communities. Many of my friends and neighbors who are law-abiding citizens have been denied permits without justification, leaving them feeling frustrated and disenfranchised. I have also seen how this issue can disproportionately affect certain groups, such as women and minorities, who may be more vulnerable to crime and therefore more in need of a means to defend themselves. By implementing a fair and transparent appeal process, we can help to ensure that all Rhode Islanders have an equal opportunity to protect themselves and their loved ones.

I urge you to vote yes on H7553 and help bring much-needed reform to our state's permitting process. I appreciate your dedication to public service and your commitment to representing the interests of our community. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to seeing this important legislation become law.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk