

Roberta DiMezza

From: judy.byrnes@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 7:48 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support of House Bills H7557 and H8073

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Dear Chairman McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Judith A. Byrnes, and I live in Bristol, RI.
My Representative is Rep. June Speakman, District #68.

I write in support of Rep. Donovan's "The Rhode Island Firearm Industry Accountability Act" – H7557 – and Rep. Tanzi's "Unlawful Possession of Firearms Act" – H8073.

The RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act is important because currently, federal law provides sweeping immunity to the gun industry from most types of civil lawsuits – exempting highly profitable corporations from most normal mechanisms of accountability in court. No other industry in the United States enjoys this kind of protection. H7557 establishes a firearm industry standard of responsible business conduct. It also establishes a cause of action to ensure victims of gun violence can seek fair justice in court if they can prove they suffered actual harm because of a gun industry member's irresponsible conduct.

Rep. Tanzi's bill H8073 is important because it will strengthen the Unlawful Sale of Prohibited Firearms Act passed last year. That law made RI the 11th state in the country to restrict certain military-style weapons - including assault-style rifles like the AR-15. However, it does not cover some assault-style pistols and shotguns and, critically, does not ban possession—making it difficult to enforce, leaving dangerous weapons in circulation, and falling short of our neighboring states' standards. While prohibiting the sale and purchase is a step toward reducing access, it does not go far enough.

Our safety should not be held hostage to the profit-making gun lobby.
Why should our law enforcement officers be "out gunned" on our streets by criminals in bullet proof vests heavily armed with deadly weapons?

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.
Rhode Islanders deserve to live free from the devastation of gun violence. I urge you to vote these bills out of committee and send them to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Judith A. Byrnes
Bristol, RI