

Roberta DiMezza

From: Katherine Baldrige <katherine.wilkinson@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:21 AM
To: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; House Judiciary Committee
Cc: RICAGV
Subject: Support of House Bills H7557 and H8073

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Katherine Baldrige
North Kingstown, RI
April 8, 2026

RE: Support of House Bills H7557 and H8073

Dear Chairman McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Katherine ('Kat') and I live in North Kingstown. My Representative is Robert Craven. I am a member/volunteer of RI Coalition Against Gun Violence.

I'm here tonight in support of Representative Donovan's "The Rhode Island Firearm Industry Accountability Act" - H7557 - and Representative 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 H8073 is important because it will strengthen the Unlawful Sale of Prohibited Firearms Act passed last year. That law made RI the 11* 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.

A recent Children's Defense Fund's Parent and Child Trends Survey by YouGov, found fear of a school shooting the second most common worry for children between 6 and 17 years old and their parents. One-third of children surveyed said they are worried about a shooting happening at their school.

Personally, I couldn't sleep soundly for weeks when my daughter, 3.5 years old, started preschool in September 2025. The gun industry should be required to make responsible sales and be held

accountable if they do not. Assault weapons have no place in our state or in civilian hands. Please support these common sense laws and prioritize keeping RI families - and beyond - safe!

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

Best Regards,
Katherine 'Kat' Baldrige

Sent from my iPhone