

Kathryn Lundin  
Providence, RI

April 7, 2026

RE: Support of House Bills H7557 and H8073

Dear Chairman McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kathryn Lundin and I live in Providence. My representative is Rebecca Kislak.

I'm sending this letter in support of Representative Donovan's "The Rhode Island Firearm Industry Accountability Act" - H7557 - and Representative Tanzi's "Unlawful Possession of Prohibited Firearms Act" - H8073.

It is important to note that today my son, a RI high school junior, along with many other Rhode Island children across the state, experienced the third gun-related disruption to their daily lives in less than four months as police searched for a suspected gunman at CCRI. My son's school was closed for a week in December due to the Brown shooting and our family was negatively impacted by the February shooting at Lynch arena. As we have experienced firsthand, these gun related incidents cause fear and negatively impact the mental health of our children. 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. **Our children have a right to feel safe in their community.**

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 11st 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.

Last week, I attended a session at the Watson School at Brown University titled “Gun Violence as a Public Health Problem” led by Dr. Megan Ranney, Dean of the Yale School of Public Health. She described the damage that assault weapons do to the human body, leaving exit wounds significantly larger than entry wounds while causing massive tissue damage. These weapons have no place in the hands of civilians and are a public health issue. From 2015 to 2022, mass shootings with four or more people killed where an assault weapon was used resulted in nearly six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded on average compared to those that did not involve the use of one. (Everytown for Gun Safety)

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation. Rhode Islanders deserve to live free from gun violence. Our children deserve to live free of the fear 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.

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Lundin