

Raquel Carchide

April 05, 2026

RE: Support of House Bills H7557 and H8073

Dear Chairman McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee: My name is Raquel Carchide, and I go am a student at Rhode Island College and volunteer of RI Coalition Against Gun Violence. I am writing in support of Representative Donovan's "The Rhode Island Firearm Industry Accountability Act" H7557 and Representative Tanzi's "Unlawful Possession of Firearms Act" H8073.

I support the RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act because I believe that corporations should be held accountable in the case of negligence. H7557 serves dual purposes. It provides the firearm industry with a clear standard of responsible business conduct. It also lays a path for victims of gun violence to seek justice against gun industry members if they conducted business irresponsibly and if harm was caused because of that misconduct.

H8073 builds on the Unlawful Sale of Prohibited Firearms Act that was passed in RI last year. This was a progressive law that restricted certain assault style rifles. The current law does not restrict assault style pistols or shotguns and does not ban possession of the guns that are now prohibited. Our neighboring states have more strict regulations. Without addressing the changes introduced in Rep. Tanzi's H8073, possession of guns that are no longer legally sold in Rhode Island could still be considered legal. This weakens the enforcement and the purpose of the bill that was passed last year, by allowing dangerous weapons to stay in circulation.

As a student in Rhode Island, the mass shooting at Brown University in December of 2025 opened my eyes to the threat of gun violence. The data shows that when an assault weapon and/or a large-capacity magazine is used in a public mass shooting, nearly 14 times as many people are injured, and twice as many people are killed (Brady). For this reason, I support the prohibition of assault weapons and want to see laws be passed that protect the people. H8073 and H7557 propose important guidelines that would protect people who live, study, visit, and work in Rhode Island.

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.

Sincerely,

Raquel Carchide

