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From: Daniel Chin <dj.chin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 10:22 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB 7557 Opposition

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Esteemed Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 7557. This legislation is an overreaching attempt to create sweeping civil liability for the firearm industry by redefining “reasonable controls” so broadly that virtually any manufacturer, retailer, or distributor could be sued for the criminal acts of third parties. The bill allows lawsuits not only by the state and municipalities, but by *any private individual* claiming “harm” (H 7557, §23-106-3(b)(1)), even when the firearm industry member complied with all existing state and federal laws.

This bill is not about accountability — it is about creating a backdoor method to financially cripple lawful businesses through endless litigation. The “rebuttable presumption” clause (H 7557, §23-106-3(d)) effectively presumes guilt and forces businesses to prove their innocence, a standard that would never be tolerated in any other industry. It invites lawsuits based on vague, subjective claims about advertising, “foreseeability,” or what someone *might* do with a product.

H 7557 is an attempt to impose liability for the criminal misuse of lawful products — something federal law has long recognized as unreasonable and unjust. This bill would punish lawful businesses, drive up costs for consumers, and undermine the rights of Rhode Islanders by targeting the lawful supply chain rather than the criminals who actually commit violent acts.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject H 7557.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel Chin
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