

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:42 PM
To: Rep. Susan Donovan; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. June Speakman; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Brandon Potter; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Patricia McGaw; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7557 — RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act (House)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my strong opposition to RI 2026 H7557, the "RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act." This bill, which seeks to create a civil liability framework for firearm manufacturers and dealers, is misguided and would have unintended consequences for Rhode Island residents.

I believe that this bill would unfairly target law-abiding businesses and individuals, leading to increased costs and reduced access to firearms for recreational and self-defense purposes. For instance, the added liability would likely lead to increased insurance premiums for firearm dealers, which would then be passed on to consumers. This would disproportionately affect low-income households and rural communities, where firearms are often used for hunting and self-protection. Furthermore, the bill's focus on manufacturers and dealers may drive these businesses out of state, resulting in lost jobs and revenue for our local economy.

As someone who has spoken with local firearms enthusiasts and business owners, I've seen firsthand the potential impact this bill could have on our community. Many of these individuals are responsible gun owners who use firearms for recreational purposes, such as target shooting and hunting. They are not the problem, and we should not be punishing them with unnecessary regulations. Moreover, the bill does not address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health and social issues, which require a more comprehensive approach.

I urge you to vote against H7557 and instead focus on evidence-based solutions that address the complex issues surrounding gun violence. I appreciate your dedication to public service and the time you take to consider the concerns of your constituents.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI