

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 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 opposition to the RI 2026 H7557, also known as the "RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act (House)". I strongly believe that this bill, which aims to create a civil liability framework for firearm manufacturers and dealers, will have unintended consequences that will negatively impact Rhode Island residents.

My primary concern is that this bill will lead to the closure of small, local gun shops that are an integral part of our communities. These shops not only provide a vital service but also support local economies and provide employment opportunities. For instance, I have seen firsthand how the local gun shop in East Greenwich supports our town's hunting and fishing traditions, providing expertise and equipment to enthusiasts. If this bill passes, I fear that these shops will be unable to bear the burden of potential lawsuits, leading to their closure and a loss of community resources.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this bill will not address the root causes of gun violence in our state. Instead of targeting manufacturers and dealers, we should be focusing on evidence-based solutions that address mental health, education, and community-based initiatives. Additionally, the bill's provisions may inadvertently drive gun sales underground, making it more difficult for law enforcement to track and regulate firearms.

I also worry about the potential impact on law-abiding gun owners in Rhode Island. This bill may lead to increased costs and bureaucratic hurdles for those who wish to purchase firearms, which could disproportionately affect low-income individuals and families who rely on firearms for hunting and self-defense. Moreover, the bill's civil liability framework may encourage frivolous lawsuits, which could further drive up costs and limit access to firearms.

I urge you to vote no on H7557 and instead focus on solutions that address the complex issues surrounding gun violence in our state. Thank you for your time and service to our community; I appreciate your dedication to representing the interests of Rhode Island residents.

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