

Roberta DiMezza

From: Don Frye <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 14, 2026 7:43 PM
To: Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Lima, Charlene; Rep. Earl Read; Rep. Leonela Batista; Rep. Enrique Felix; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Marvin Knight; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H7636 — Voluntary Firearm Restrictions Act

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Dear Rep. Jennifer Boylan,

As your constituent and a longtime resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my strong opposition to RI 2026 H7636, the "Voluntary Firearm Restrictions Act." While I understand the well-intentioned nature of this legislation, I believe it creates more problems than it solves for Rhode Island residents.

My primary concern is the potential for this system to be misused during domestic disputes or family conflicts. When relationships deteriorate, it's not uncommon for individuals to make impulsive decisions they later regret. A person going through a difficult divorce or dealing with temporary depression could add themselves to this list, only to find themselves unable to exercise their constitutional rights when they've worked through their issues. The bill appears to lack adequate safeguards for timely removal from the registry, potentially trapping people in a system they voluntarily entered during a moment of crisis.

Additionally, this legislation creates a dangerous precedent for government record-keeping on constitutional rights. Rhode Island residents rightfully worry about privacy and data security, especially given numerous data breaches in state and federal systems over recent years. Creating another database of personal information – particularly one involving constitutional rights – unnecessarily expands government surveillance capabilities and puts citizens' private information at risk.

The bill also places an unfair burden on our already stretched law enforcement resources. Rhode Island police departments are dealing with staffing shortages and competing priorities. Requiring them to maintain, monitor, and enforce this voluntary registry diverts resources from addressing actual crimes and public safety threats that directly impact our communities.

Furthermore, this approach may actually discourage people from seeking the help they truly need. Someone experiencing a mental health crisis might avoid professional treatment if they fear it could somehow complicate their ability to remove themselves from the registry later. We should be encouraging Rhode Islanders to seek support, not creating additional bureaucratic hurdles that might keep them from getting assistance.

Having lived in Rhode Island for over two decades, I've seen how well-meaning legislation can sometimes create unintended consequences that hurt the very people it's designed to help. Rhode Island already has robust background check systems and mental health resources. Rather than creating new registries, we should focus on improving access to existing mental health services and ensuring our current systems work effectively.

I respectfully urge you to vote no on H7636. This legislation risks creating more problems than solutions while potentially infringing on the constitutional rights of Rhode Island residents who may find themselves unable to exit a system they entered voluntarily.

Thank you for your time and service,
Don Frye