

Oppose 2026 RI House Bill H 7754 - Universal Concealed Carry Reciprocity

Two mass shootings in just two months — here in Rhode Island, once considered among the safest states for firearm incidents. We shouldn't be shocked anymore. We live in a country where more children are killed by guns **each year** than in the next ten industrialized nations - **combined**.ⁱ

In 2024 alone, 1,421 children under 17 lost their lives to firearm violence, and there were 503 mass shootings nationwide. ⁱⁱ The United States, with only 4% of the world's population, owns close to half of all privately held firearms worldwide — around 393 million guns, or about 120 for every 100-adult resident.ⁱⁱⁱ Keep in mind, only around 30% of the US adult population own firearms.^{iv}

For more than two decades, the gun lobby and its allies in Congress have pushed for **Universal Concealed Carry Reciprocity**.^v This law would allow anyone permitted to carry a concealed weapon in their *home* state to carry it in *every other state* — including Rhode Island. That means someone from one of the many states requiring no permit, no training, and no registration could legally carry a hidden firearm into our restaurants, schools, concerts, sporting events, etc. The mass shooting in Pawtucket is an example: Florida allows concealed carry without a permit (permit-less carry).^{vi}

Do we really want that here? Should our families have to wonder if the person next to them in a theater or hockey rink is armed and untrained? While self-defense matters, public safety demands standards. Common-sense firearm safety laws exist for a reason — to safeguard lives, not sacrifice them to ideology.

Gun violence is not just a political issue; it's a public health crisis, a moral crisis, and now, for Rhode Islanders, a personal one.

- **H 7754 - Oppose**
- H 7557 - Support
- H 7035 - Support
- H 7755 - Support
- H 8067 - Support
- H 8069 - Support
- H 8071 - Support
- H 8075 - Support

Ramsey Davis
Cranston, RI 02910

USMC Viet Nam Veteran - Served in Viet Nam 1969 – 1970 for 12 months in the northern corps along the DMZ as an infantryman, radioman and interpreter.

I am a retired special education teacher who has worked in public and private education, K – 12, for 31 years.

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ⁱ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10249597/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.statista.com/chart/14468/us-civilians-own-393-million-firearms/>

^{iv} <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/24/key-facts-about-americans-and-guns/>

^v <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/block-concealed-carry-mandate/>

^{vi} <https://www.jaxsheriff.org/Resources/PermitlessCarry.aspx>