

TO: Chair Hagan McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Amy Herlihy

RE:

Support: H 7755 and H 8069

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

DATE: April 6, 2026

To Chair Hagan McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Amy Herlihy, I live in Barrington and I'm a volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense.

In addition to the bills above I am urging your support of H 7755 (Boylan) and H 8069 (Donovan).

H 7755 would change the application to purchase a firearm by updating the "Blue Card" process, which was last updated in 1998. When learning about the Blue Card in Rhode Island, it made me think of what people must do to obtain a driver's license- and the differences between these two processes are striking and concerning when thinking about how both processes are meant to keep drivers, gun owners, and our community safe. For example, to legally operate a car in Rhode Island, new drivers must complete classroom instruction, behind-the-wheel training, supervised practice hours, and a comprehensive written exam. The process is designed to ensure that anyone controlling a vehicle on public roads has demonstrated a solid understanding of safety, responsibility, and state law. By comparison, obtaining a Blue Card—Rhode Island's requirement for purchasing a handgun—requires passing a short, free, multiple-choice safety quiz that can often be completed in minutes and has remained exactly the same for years. No hands-on training, no supervised practice, and no demonstration of proficiency are required. Once you pass, you are legally eligible for life to purchase a firearm capable of lethal force. Even though the Blue Card process is much less stringent than the process for obtaining a driver's license, the Blue Card allows recipients to purchase a firearm, which is designed to inflict legal force. I strongly support H 7755 which would revamp the Blue Card process by requiring standardized

classroom and live fire training for every person seeking to purchase a handgun or a long gun. Implementing this training would bring us closer in line with 15+ other states that have passed licensing laws and seen significant reductions in gun suicide and gun homicide rates.

H 8069 requires shooting ranges to post signs in any area in which shooting occurs that contain the following language: "WARNING: If you or a loved one is experiencing distress and/or depression, call the 988 Suicide and Crisis hotline or text "HOME" to 741741." State law already requires gun dealers to post this language, so this would ensure ranges have the same sorts of warning regarding suicide resources.

The bill would also require employees of the shooting range to participate in training to recognize the warning signs of suicide.

Last Fall, in Tiverton, there were two tragic incidents of firearm suicide at the same shooting range, two months apart. Requiring ranges to post resources related to suicide requiring range employees to undergo training would hopefully help avoid these kinds of tragedies in the future. RI currently has no laws governing privately owned shooting ranges. This reasonable law will save the lives of those in crisis who need help.

Please pass H 7755 and H 8069 out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,
Amy Herlihy