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Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:04 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support: H 7755 and H 8069

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April 8, 2026

Dear Chair Hagan McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Kathleen Layton and I happily live in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. It's the town in which I raised three children, my 85-year old mother resides, and I volunteer for its excellent school district.

I am writing to urge you to support H 7755 (Boylan) and H 8069 (Donovan).

H 7755 would change the application process to purchase a firearm by updating the "Blue Card" process, which was last updated in 1998.

This act would also require folks looking to possess a firearm, except for police and military, to complete and pass a basic firearm safety training course.

H 7755 will bring us up to par with 15+ other states and large urban areas that have passed similar laws and seen significant reductions in gun homicide rates. Connecticut saw a 28% reduction in homicides and a 33% reduction in gun suicides after passing the law.

H 8069 Requires shooting ranges to post signs in any area where shooting occurs that contain the following: "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."

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

Last fall, in Tiverton, there were two firearm suicides, at the same shooting range. Rhode Island has no laws governing privately owned shooting ranges, so owners are free to operate under whatever rules they'd like. This reasonable law will save the lives of those in crisis who need help.

I work with children, and my own children mean the world to me. Data shows that safer gun laws equal less children dying to gun violence. Gun violence death is avoidable and I will never stop advocating for safer gun laws to protect Rhode Island.

Thanks for all that you do.

Kathleen Layton

Moms Demand Action

North Kingstown Democrats