

TO: Chair McEntee and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Laura Lambiase

RE: Support: H 7755, H 8069

DATE: April 7, 2026

Chair McEntee and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to urge you to support 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.

1. This act would also require persons seeking to possess a firearm except for police and military personnel to complete and pass a basic firearm safety training course.
2. This bill will bring us in line with 15+ other states and large urban areas who have passed similar laws and seen significant reductions in gun homicide rates.
3. Our neighbor, Connecticut, saw a 28% reduction in homicides, and a 33% reduction in gun suicides.

H8069 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."

1. It would also require employees of the shooting range to participate in training to recognize the warning signs of suicide
2. Last Fall, in Tiverton, there were two tragic incidences of firearm suicide at the same shooting range, two months apart.
3. RI 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.

As a physician assistant practicing in Rhode Island, I have seen the direct effects of gun violence on patients and their families. It is our responsibility as a community to protect our friends and neighbors with gun safety education.

Please pass H 7755 and H8069 out of committee and to the Senate floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

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