

Roberta DiMezza

From: Michael Guilmain <mike.guilmain@parabellumprovisions.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2026 4:10 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.
Subject: Please oppose H7755

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Dear Representative,

My name is Michael Guilmain. I am a director and the Lead Instructor of Para Bellum Provisions, a Rhode Island non-profit education, training, and advocacy organization. All of our classes are open to the public, and most are 100% free to attend. I have been a firearms safety instructor for more than a decade, and we have had over one thousand students come through our program. I am writing to urge you to oppose H7755.

I want to be clear about my position. My objection is not that this bill imposes the wrong kind of training. My objection is that the state should have no role in creating training requirements, testing requirements, curriculum requirements, or other barriers tied to the lawful purchase, possession, carrying, or use of firearms in the first place. Firearms ownership is a constitutional right. The role of the state should be to protect that right and make its lawful exercise easier, not to create new hurdles and then debate how burdensome those hurdles should be.

This bill moves in exactly the wrong direction. They would replace a simpler existing process with a far more burdensome system requiring at least eight hours of instruction, live fire training, and standardized testing under a framework controlled through state approval of instructors, curriculum, and courses. That is not the protection of a right. That is the expansion of state control over a right.

The financial burden is especially troubling. The current blue card pathway is free. Under this bill, applicants could be forced into a paid training system before they can even begin the process of lawfully acquiring a firearm. And the burden is not limited to a course fee. There is also the cost of ammunition, range time, transportation, time away from work, and possibly childcare. For many Rhode Islanders, especially first-time gun buyers and those of limited means, that becomes a real barrier. A constitutional right should not be conditioned on whether a person has extra money available to satisfy new state mandated prerequisites.

This bill will price people out of exercising their rights. That is unacceptable. Rights do not belong only to those who can afford additional fees, added travel, lost wages, and a multi part approval process. When the state adds financial and logistical burdens like these, it is limiting access through cost and delay. Poll taxes are unconstitutional, and so are laws that are designed to price people out of other Constitutional rights.

I am also deeply concerned that this bill appears designed to institute an Everytown style training model in Rhode Island. The structure and subject matter almost identically match the framework Everytown has publicly promoted. Everytown's training model is not designed to honestly educate lawful gun owners, but instead to discourage and dissuade people from legally purchasing and owning firearms. This is an Everytown ploy to get

its preferred “training” approach embedded into state law. Rhode Islanders should not be forced to pay for an advocacy driven class as a condition of exercising a constitutional right.

As someone who has spent more than ten years teaching firearms safety to over a thousand students, I strongly support voluntary education, practical training, and responsible ownership. But those decisions belong to individual citizens, families, instructors, and private organizations, not the government. The question before the legislature should not be how much training the state should impose. The answer should be none.

Please oppose H7755.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Guilmain
Director and Lead Instructor
Para Bellum Provisions