

## Opposition to House Bill No. 7755

Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Good afternoon. My name is Stephen Daignault, and I strongly oppose H 7755, the so-called “Responsible Firearm Purchasing Act,” as it represents a clear case of government overreach that unnecessarily complicates and further restricts the rights of law-abiding citizens.

This legislation attempts to reinvent the wheel by layering additional bureaucracy onto an already regulated process. Rhode Island does not lack firearm safety oversight. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) already administers effective and accessible safety training programs. Their work has been consistent, professional, and sufficient. Replacing or duplicating their role is not only redundant, but it is also an insult to the service and competence of an agency that has been doing this job well for years.

The bill also introduces provisions that move dangerously close to firearm registration, particularly through requirements involving serial numbers. Mandating the disclosure and tracking of firearm serial numbers in this manner is effectively a backdoor registry. Firearm registration is not a right granted to the state, and many citizens view such measures as a direct threat to their constitutional protections.

Most importantly, this bill undermines the very purpose of the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment was written to serve as a safeguard against government overreach—not as a tool for the government to impose increasing restrictions on its citizens. Laws like H 7755 invert that principle by placing additional burdens on lawful gun owners while doing little to address criminal misuse.

Elected officials take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution. Advancing legislation that restricts fundamental rights under the guise of safety—especially when existing systems are already in place—runs contrary to that oath. This bill is also in direct violation of R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-47-41 Government Firearm Registration Prohibited.

For these reasons, I urge lawmakers to reject H 7755.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Daignault