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April 8, 2026

The Honorable Carol Hagan McEntee
Chairwoman, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, RI 02903
HouseJudiciary@rillegislature.gov

Support H. 8067 – prohibition on gun possession for persons with a felony

Dear Chairwoman McEntee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association, I write to express our support for H 8067.

This legislation strengthens Rhode Island's firearm laws by clearly reinforcing prohibitions on firearm possession for individuals with certain criminal convictions, including felony offenses and specified violent or threatening misdemeanor conduct. From a law enforcement perspective, ensuring that individuals who have demonstrated dangerous behavior are restricted from accessing firearms is a critical component of protecting public safety.

H. 8067 provides clarity and consistency in statute, helping officers and prosecutors more effectively enforce existing laws while reducing ambiguity in application. By aligning disqualifying offenses with behaviors that present a heightened risk to the community, this bill supports proactive measures to prevent violence before it occurs.

Our members see firsthand the risks associated with firearms in the hands of prohibited individuals. Strengthening these safeguards enhances officer safety, supports victims, and helps prevent escalation in situations that too often lead to serious injury or loss of life.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support H. 8067. Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to public safety in Rhode Island.

Sincerely,

Chief Sidney Wordell (ret.)
Executive Director
Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association