

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 PM
To: Rep. Jenni Furtado; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Susan Donovan;
Rep. Karen Alzate; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Messier, Mary; Rep.
Jennifer Stewart; Rep. Brandon Potter; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8067 — Felony Conviction Firearm Disqualification

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my opposition to RI 2026 H8067, the "Felony Conviction Firearm Disqualification" bill. I strongly believe that this bill is overly restrictive and will have unintended consequences for law-abiding citizens in our community.

My primary concern is that this bill will disproportionately affect individuals who have already served their time and are now trying to reintegrate into society. I have seen firsthand how difficult it can be for people to find employment and rebuild their lives after a felony conviction. By barring them from owning firearms, we are essentially taking away their right to defend themselves and their families. Furthermore, this bill does not account for the fact that many felony convictions are non-violent offenses, such as white-collar crimes or drug possession. It is unfair to lump these individuals in with those who have committed violent crimes.

Additionally, I am concerned about the impact this bill will have on rural communities in Rhode Island, where hunting and firearms are a way of life. Many residents in these areas rely on hunting to provide food for their families, and this bill will essentially take away their ability to do so. I have also spoken to local gun shop owners who are worried about the economic impact this bill will have on their businesses.

I urge you to consider the real-world implications of this bill and vote against it. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further with you and explore alternative solutions that prioritize public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. Thank you for your time and service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI