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From: Daniel Chin <dj.chin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 10:10 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: HB 8068 Opposition

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Esteemed Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 8068. It is absurd that citizens must continually defend the Constitution from the very officials sworn to uphold it. This bill ignores both history and common sense by criminalizing long-standing, responsible youth firearm practices that have been part of American culture for generations.

For most of the 20th century, it was **normal and uncontroversial for American students to bring rifles to school** — not for violence, but for *education*. High schools across the country, including in major cities like New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles, had **rifle teams, marksmanship classes, and school-sponsored shooting ranges**. Students carried their rifles on public transportation, stored them in school lockers, and practiced under the supervision of trained instructors. These programs taught discipline, safety, responsibility, and respect — the very values this bill undermines.

H 8068's blanket prohibition — making it “unlawful for any person under eighteen (18) years of age to possess a firearm” except under narrow, state-approved circumstances — erases this deep historical tradition. It replaces family-guided, supervised learning with criminal penalties. It treats responsible parents and well-trained youth as potential offenders instead of recognizing the proven value of early, structured firearm education.

This bill does nothing to enhance safety. Instead, it criminalizes ordinary, responsible behavior that has existed since before the founding of this country. It punishes families who teach safety and responsibility, and it contradicts the very principles of freedom and self-reliance that Rhode Island and the United States were built on.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject H 8068.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Daniel Chin
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