

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 PM
To: Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Jenni Furtado; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Marvin Knight; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Diaz, Grace; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8068 — Minor Firearm Possession Prohibition

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 H8068, the "Minor Firearm Possession Prohibition" bill. I strongly believe that this bill would have unintended consequences for law-abiding Rhode Island residents, particularly those in rural areas who rely on firearms for hunting and self-defense.

In our community, many young people learn responsible gun ownership and hunting practices from their families, often starting at a young age. Prohibiting minors from possessing firearms would not only undermine these family traditions but also potentially hinder their ability to learn critical safety skills. Furthermore, this bill could disproportionately affect low-income families who rely on hunting as a means of providing food for their households. I have seen firsthand the importance of hunting in our community, where many families come together to share knowledge and resources. Additionally, the bill's blanket prohibition could lead to unnecessary conflicts between law enforcement and minors who are simply exercising their rights. I also worry about the potential impact on our local 4-H and scouting programs, which often teach firearms safety and responsibility to young people.

I urge you to vote against H8068. Thank you for your time and service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI