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Dear Members of the Rhode Island State House,

I would like to voice my support of House Bill 8069 that would prevent non-members of gun ranges from having the ability to obtain a gun and use it to harm themselves or others at a gun range.

I am honored to be able to wear many hats within the Bristol Warren Community. Parent of a 19 and 17-year old, practicing mental health psychotherapist, member of the Bristol Warren Regional School Committee and member of the board for Bristol HEZ. They all inform my view that it is imperative to erect as many boundaries as possible to make it more difficult for our struggling young people to be able to take their own lives. As a therapist, so much of my work and training has been in assessing suicide risk and ameliorating the suffering that delivers us to this permanent desire to stop hurting. I also know as a professional that suicide deterrents such as fencing on bridges, help lines and making it more difficult to procure fire arms save lives. As a school committee member, I know that so many of our students work mightily to manage and improve their mental health. As a parent, my heart breaks for any parent who has lost a child to suicide.

For these reasons I humbly ask for your support of this legislation. We all need to work together to prevent the loss of any more lives to suicide.

Thank you,

Carly Reich

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