

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:34 PM
To: Rep. Susan Donovan; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. June Speakman; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Brandon Potter; Rep. Fogarty, Kathleen A.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Patricia McGaw; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8069 — Shooting Range Suicide Prevention Signage

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 H8069, the "Shooting Range Suicide Prevention Signage" bill. While I appreciate the intent behind this legislation, I believe it is an unnecessary burden on local shooting ranges and does not effectively address the complex issue of mental health.

I have several concerns about this bill. Firstly, requiring shooting ranges to post 988 crisis hotline signs may not be an effective way to reach individuals in crisis, as many people who struggle with mental health issues may not visit shooting ranges. Additionally, this mandate could be seen as stigmatizing gun owners and perpetuating negative stereotypes about the mental health of individuals who participate in shooting sports. Furthermore, the cost of implementing and maintaining these signs could be a significant burden on small, local shooting ranges, which are already struggling to stay afloat. In our community, I have seen firsthand the importance of these ranges as safe spaces for individuals to practice their sport and socialize with others.

I also worry that this bill may distract from more comprehensive and effective mental health initiatives that could benefit Rhode Island residents. Instead of focusing on a single, narrow solution, I believe our state should be investing in robust mental health programs that provide support and resources to individuals and families in need. I urge you to consider the potential unintended consequences of this bill and to explore more nuanced and effective approaches to addressing mental health in our state.

I respectfully ask that you vote against H8069. Thank you for your time and service, and for considering my perspective on this important issue.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich