

Roberta DiMezza

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Sent: Monday, March 30, 2026 7:29 PM
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Subject: Support for H8070 — Allowing Campus Self-Defense Tools for Personal Safety

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To the Honorable Members of the Rhode Island House of Representatives,

My name is **James Stead**, and I am writing in strong support of **H8070**, legislation that permits students, professors, and employees at Rhode Island's public and private colleges and universities to carry non-lethal self-defense tools such as stun guns and pepper spray.

For clarity, **H8070 is sponsored by:**

Representatives Quattrocchi, Newberry, Nardone, Roberts, Place, Chippendale, Santucci, and Fascia.

This bill provides a simple, reasonable measure to enhance personal safety on college campuses. Non-lethal defensive tools are widely recognized as effective, accessible options that empower

individuals — especially young adults — to protect themselves without introducing firearms into the campus environment.

Why H8070 is essential for Rhode Island

1. Strengthens personal safety without escalating force

Stun guns and pepper spray are defensive tools designed to stop an attack long enough for the victim to escape. They provide meaningful protection without the risks associated with lethal weapons.

2. Supports vulnerable populations

College students, particularly women, face elevated risks of assault. Allowing non-lethal self-defense tools gives them practical options to protect themselves.

3. Aligns Rhode Island with national norms

Most states already allow adults to carry pepper spray or stun guns on or near campus. H8070 brings Rhode Island in line with these common-sense standards.

4. Respects individual responsibility

This bill empowers responsible adults to take reasonable steps to safeguard their own well-being, especially when walking to parking lots, dorms, or off-campus housing.

H8070 is a balanced, responsible measure that enhances campus safety while maintaining a non-lethal, practical approach to self-defense. I respectfully urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Stead

Burrillville, Rhode Island