

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Rep. Marie Hopkins; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. Thomas Noret; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. David Place; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8070 — Campus Stun Gun & Pepper Spray Self-Defense

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 H8070, the "Campus Stun Gun & Pepper Spray Self-Defense" bill. I strongly believe that allowing college students and staff to carry stun guns or pepper spray for self-defense is not the right solution for our community.

In Rhode Island, we have seen the devastating consequences of increased access to weapons, including accidents and unintended uses. Additionally, our colleges and universities have existing security protocols in place, which I believe are more effective and safer than introducing personal defense weapons. I have also spoken to local students and parents who are concerned about the potential for these weapons to be used in altercations or as a means of intimidation.

I urge you to vote no on H8070. Thank you for your time and service, Jonathan Newkirk