

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Brandon Potter; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Marvin Knight; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Patricia McGaw; Rep. Michelle Voas; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Jenni Furtado; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8071 — Ammunition Background Check Requirement

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 strong opposition to Bill RI 2026 H8071, which requires a background check for all ammunition purchases. I understand the intention behind this bill, but I firmly believe that it will have unintended consequences that will negatively impact law-abiding citizens in our state.

In my view, this bill will create unnecessary hardship for many Rhode Island residents who are simply trying to exercise their Second Amendment rights. For one, the background check process will undoubtedly lead to delays and increased costs for ammunition purchases, which will disproportionately affect low-income individuals and families who may rely on hunting or self-defense for their safety and well-being. I've spoken to friends and neighbors who hunt to supplement their food budget, and they're worried that this bill will make it even harder for them to put food on the table.

Another concern I have is that this bill will place an undue burden on our state's already understaffed and underfunded law enforcement agencies. They will be responsible for processing these background checks, which will take away from their ability to focus on more pressing public safety issues. I've seen firsthand the great work that our local police department does in our community, and I don't want to see their resources stretched even thinner.

Furthermore, I believe that this bill will not effectively address the root causes of gun violence in our state. Instead, it will simply create more barriers for law-abiding citizens who are trying to protect themselves and their families. I've attended community meetings and spoken to neighbors who are concerned about the rise in crime in our area, and they're looking for real solutions, not just feel-good legislation.

I urge you to vote no on H8071 and consider more effective and targeted approaches to addressing gun violence in our state. I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this issue further with you and explore alternative solutions that will truly make a positive impact on our community.

Thank you for your time and service,

Jonathan Newkirk
East Greenwich, RI