

April 7, 2026

Dear Honorable Chair McEntee and House Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Wesley Smith, I reside in Scituate within District 41, and this is my testimony regarding House Bill No. 8071.

I am opposed to this bill as it adds unnecessary oversight and delay to the purchase of ammunition for law abiding citizens. This bill does not specify the system to be used for the background checks. Building a new system would add to the burden of taxpayers. Existing background checks to State or Local police departments possibly would not be done in real time, and it is unknown if the Federal NICS system could be used for this purpose. Even if it could, the NICS system has caused problems for many purchasers of firearms with mistaken identity issues which would translate to denials for purchases of ammunition. Additionally, any background check system could be limited by issues such as computer downtime or overloaded systems, again adding to delays or denials. The current system of displaying a valid DEM Handgun or Hunter safety course certificate is adequate and functional in real time. I respectfully ask that you reject this bill. Thank you for considering my testimony.