

Testimony

TO: House Judiciary Committee (HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

FROM: James N. Bond

DATE: April 7, 2026

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION to H.8073, H.8075, and H.7035

Chairman Craven and Members of the Committee,

My name is James Nicholas Bond. I am a resident of Tiverton, a 100% Disabled Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and a certified NRA Range Safety Officer. I am writing today to express my strong opposition to the firearm-related legislation being heard on April 8th, specifically H.8073, H.8075, and H.7035.

As a Marine, I took an oath to defend the Constitution. As a Range Safety Officer, my entire focus is on the safe, legal, and responsible handling of firearms. These bills do not promote safety; they penalize the most responsible members of our community.

My commitment to firearm safety began long before my military service; I earned my hunter safety education certification in this state when I was only 10 years old. Since I was a child, my father, my uncles, and my grandfather instilled in me a profound respect for firearms and the gravity of their safe handling. That foundation of discipline followed me into the Marine Corps, where I qualified as an Expert marksman five consecutive times, and helped serve as a Marksman Instructor whenever I had time on the side of fixing and flying in the mighty CH46 Helicopter as a door gunner.

Today, I treat my rifles with a level of reverence and discipline that I respect as much as the sanctity of my own marriage and family. Again, I'd like to express my strong opposition to H.8073, H.8075, and H.7035. These bills do not promote safety; they penalize the very lifelong discipline that I, and many other Rhode Islanders, including my fellow members of Tiverton Rod and Gun Club, have practiced for decades.

- Regarding H.8073 (Possession Ban): This bill would turn law-abiding citizens into felons overnight for possessing equipment they have owned legally for years. In Tiverton, we have a strong culture of marksmanship and sport. This bill ignores the reality of responsible ownership and focuses on hardware rather than criminal behavior.
- Regarding H.8075 (\$1M Liability Insurance): This is a direct "poll tax" on a constitutional right. As a safety officer, I can tell you that education and training are the keys to safety—not mandatory insurance premiums that many working families and

veterans on fixed incomes simply cannot afford. It effectively prices the Second Amendment out of reach for the average Rhode Islander.

- Regarding H.7035 (One-Gun-A-Month): This rationing scheme does nothing to stop straw purchases, which are already illegal. It only creates a logistical hurdle for collectors and law-abiding citizens.

I also want to make it known that my community in Tiverton has historically stood against these types of infringements. We value our rights, our heritage of service, and our ability to defend our homes and families without being treated like criminals by our own state government.

I urge this committee to protect the rights of veterans and law-abiding citizens by voting NO on these measures.

Respectfully,

Sgt James N Bond USMC

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