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Hello, I hope this email finds you well, I wanted to write you and express my concerns over H8073. I believe in protecting our communities and reducing violence. We all want safer neighborhoods. However, I am very concerned that this revised version of the bill now seeks to ban the possession of certain firearms. This goes far beyond regulating sales and instead directly affects law-abiding citizens who have followed the law.

Criminals do not follow gun laws. Expanding bans on possession will mainly impact responsible gun owners, not individuals who already obtain firearms illegally. We are geographically close to states such as New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont, which generally have less restrictive firearm laws. Those who intend to break the law can easily cross state lines, while our own residents are left facing new restrictions and possible penalties.

I am also concerned about constitutional rights. The Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, and many Rhode Islanders value that protection deeply. Expanding this bill could open the door to legal challenges that cost taxpayers money and create further division.

If we are serious about reducing violence, we should focus on the root causes, including mental health support, substance abuse treatment, stronger enforcement of existing laws, and community-based prevention efforts. Those approaches target the problem without punishing responsible citizens.

I respectfully urge you to oppose the amended version of H8073 and instead support solutions that protect both public safety and constitutional rights.

Thank you for your time and service to our state.

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