

Ariana Costa

From: Andrew McCaughey <andrew.mk.mccaughey@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 1:31 PM
To: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Re: With regards to H 8073

You don't often get email from andrew.mk.mccaughey@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Andrew McCaughey and I am a resident of Lincoln, RI. Please accept this as my written testimony to your committee, as I am unable to alter my work schedule. I am writing you today to speak in vehement opposition to House bills 7557, 7035, 7754, 7755, 8068, 8069, 8071, 8073, and 8075.

In the interest of being concise I won't give you a bill by bill breakdown about the individual flaws in these pieces of legislation. If you'd like one, I am at your disposal.

These are, in sum, designed to harass, inconvenience, and usurp the right of Rhode Islanders to own and possess firearms that are in common use throughout the state and the country. They represent a direct contradiction to the intent of the founding documents of not only the United States, but the State of Rhode Island itself in Article 1, Section 22 of our state constitution. Furthermore, for a legislature that speaks so highly of their own work in improving affordability for Rhode Islanders, these bills seek to make owning a firearm prohibitively expensive. It is nothing short of grotesque to make the constitutionally affirmed right of self defense only available to the wealthy, especially when our state's economically disenfranchised are more likely to be the victims of violent crime.

It strikes me that bill 8075, again coming from those who tout affordability as such a crisis, funnels money directly from citizens who have committed no crime or ill act directly into the pockets of an industry with a powerful lobby in this state.

These bills seek to strip Rhode Islanders of their rights, and press them ever tighter not in the interest of public safety, but for financial extraction. This state is in trouble. Economically we are teetering on the brink. These bills if passed will have but one effect, and that will be to drive ever more Rhode Islanders out of this state and into others where they do not feel as though they are nothing to their leadership but an economic resource to be abused. My family is now in its sixth generation of Rhode Islanders. We have been here for almost two centuries, and now our home is becoming untenable. Regrettably these bills seem to demonstrate a lack of good faith on the side of their authors; once one bill erodes our rights another will be introduced to erode them ever further. I have been at this now for over fifteen years. Writing emails, calling legislators, visiting the statehouse. It feels as though things in every respect have only gotten worse. Organizations flush with out of state funding provided by billionaires dominate the discourse.

You have power, you have agency. You can choose to listen to ideologues and out of state actors who want political prestige at the expense of the citizens, or you can listen to the citizens. We want Rhode

Islanders to be safe, we want Rhode Island to be prosperous. These bills are not the way forward. They are a punitive measure aimed squarely at the wrong people.

Good luck to you, and indeed to us all.

Sincerely,

Andrew McCaughey

On Tue, Mar 17, 2026 at 1:52 PM Andrew McCaughey <andrew.mk.mccaughey@gmail.com> wrote:
Members of the House Judiciary Committee, my name is Andrew McCaughey of Lincoln, Rhode Island. I am writing to you in ardent opposition to H 8073. This is one of the most perversely flawed bills I have ever seen, and is a direct contradiction to the highest laws of the state. This will not have an effect on crime; all it serves is to collectively punish tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders who have committed no offense.

Right now we are a failing state, and we all know it. Industry left, businesses are leaving, our costs of living are staggeringly high, our infrastructure is in chaotic disrepair, buying a house is becoming more difficult by the day. People are leaving, and the tax base with it. This bill is an affront to the people in this state who respect the rule of law, and people will vote with their feet. Please, stop this madness in committee and let us try and focus our efforts on actual solutions to the chaos and discord. I'm part of the fifth generation of my family to call this state home, we've been here for over 150 years. My family is here, my business is here, my friends are here. I don't want to see this state fail, but this bill would hasten us to that end. A state that undertakes such draconian action against citizens who have not erred in any legal sense, I just cannot see how such a place can continue to make a good home.

With all sincerity and hope,

Andrew McCaughey