

My name is Brittany Boudreau and I am a resident of Cranston, RI. I am writing to submit testimony in opposition to bill #8073 Restricts the possession on prohibited firearms. I am a retired Providence Police officer and a Firearms Instructor in Rhode Island.

I respectfully ask the committee to reject this bill. While public safety is a critical priority, this approach is fundamentally flawed and both effectiveness and fairness. This targets the wrong population.

My position is based on these concerns:

1. Restricting the possession of the soon to be prohibited firearms will only hurt the law-abiding citizens that follow the laws, follow safe storage, are knowledgeable about firearm safety, and own these firearms for either lawful self- defense, shooting sport, or hunting/collecting.
2. Criminals are not going to adhere to these laws. From my experience as a police officer if they want to commit a crime they will find the means. They will purchase illegal firearms, make ghost guns or use another means to carry out their crime. I have had criminals out on ankle bracelets for shootings commit another shooting then be back out again the next day. This is a sentencing problem not a firearms problem. Making the sentencing stricter and holding crimes committed with a firearm harsher with longer sentences will be more of a deterrent than just strictly trying to ban them. Criminals do not care they are breaking the law anyway.
3. Allowing the grandfather clause to stay in this original bill will not only make the law abiding citizens continue to have their constitutional right to bear arms but will also not make them a criminal overnight by possessing a semi-automatic firearm or a rifle.

I urge you to reject this bill and allow the grandfather clause on possession. Instead pursue alternatives that address the issue without creating unnecessary harm and overreach to your law abiding citizens of RI.

Thank you for your time and your service to Rhode Island.