

Anabella Mayorga

From: Chris Morin <cmorin543@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2026 8:20 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony on H8073 – Oppose

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Chair McEntee and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christopher Morin, and I am a resident of Coventry, Rhode Island. I am writing to submit testimony in opposition to H8073, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses — Unlawful Sale of Prohibited Firearms.

I respectfully ask the committee to reject this bill.

My position is based on three concerns:

Direct conflict with Supreme Court precedent

H8073 expands existing law to criminalize the possession of firearms that are in common use for lawful purposes. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Supreme Court made clear that the Second Amendment protects arms “in common use” by law-abiding citizens. More recently, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* established that firearm regulations must be consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation. A broad prohibition on possession of commonly owned firearms does not meet that standard and is likely unconstitutional.

Criminalizes lawful possession and raises takings concerns

This bill does not merely regulate future conduct—it criminalizes continued possession of firearms that were lawfully acquired. That forces individuals into an impossible choice: surrender their property, remove it from the state, or face criminal penalties. This raises serious concerns under both due process and constitutional protections against uncompensated takings.

Fails to address criminal misuse while targeting compliance

H8073 targets individuals who are already complying with the law. It does not address how firearms are actually used in criminal activity and does not provide a measurable improvement to public safety. Instead, it shifts enforcement toward otherwise law-abiding citizens.

This legislation represents a significant expansion of prior restrictions and is likely to result in prolonged and costly legal challenges for the state, with little to no public safety benefit.

I urge you to reject H8073 and allow it to remain in committee.

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

Sincerely,
Christopher Morin
Coventry, RI