

Roberta DiMezza

From: Dan Barbosa <danbarbosa138@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; rep-vella-wilkinson@rilegislature.gov; House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Place, David J.
Subject: H8073

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Veto H8073

The proposed legislation H8073 in Rhode Island represents a significant shift toward the confiscation of firearms that are legally owned by citizens, raising critical questions regarding the protection of constitutional rights enshrined in the Second Amendment. This amendment explicitly safeguards an individual's right to keep and bear arms, a provision that must be carefully considered when evaluating any regulatory measures.

A thorough examination of recent high-profile incidents involving gun violence, such as the Brown University shooting and the assault at the Lynch hockey rink, reveals a stark reality: perpetrators in these cases circumvented existing firearm restrictions entirely. These individuals obtained weapons from out-of-state sources, utilized magazines exceeding current legal limits, and blatantly disregarded signage prohibiting weapons in specified areas. Such examples highlight the ineffectiveness of the existing regulatory framework in preventing determined offenders from accessing and employing firearms unlawfully.

In response to these tragedies, policymakers have predominantly advocated for increased restrictions and expanded gun bans. However, these measures primarily impact law-abiding citizens who comply with existing laws, rather than addressing the root problem of criminal misuse. The discourse has advanced to include proposals that would constrain the purchasing and carrying capabilities not only of civilians but also of law enforcement and peace officers, whose roles are essential in maintaining public safety. This shift raises complex issues concerning the balance between regulatory intent and operational efficacy of those tasked with enforcing the law.

It is crucial to acknowledge the distinction between lawful gun owners and those who engage in violent behavior. Evidence and practical experience suggest that offenders frequently operate beyond the reach of legal deterrents, rendering additional restrictions on compliant individuals tangential at best. The notion that disarming responsible citizens or limiting the operational capacity of trained law enforcement will enhance public safety lacks empirical support and may, in fact, exacerbate victimization.

Effective policies should focus on interrupting criminal activities through targeted interventions that address offender behavior directly rather than imposing broader limitations that encumber lawful gun owners. An approach grounded in empirical data and focused on crime prevention strategies, rather than symbolic legislative gestures, promises a more pragmatic pathway to reducing gun violence.

The current trajectory in Rhode Island necessitates a critical reassessment to prevent unintended consequences that may undermine public safety. It is imperative for stakeholders and legislators to engage in a reasoned dialogue that respects constitutional rights while striving to devise solutions that effectively confront criminal behavior without unjustly penalizing law-abiding citizens or hindering law enforcement capabilities. Informed decision-making, grounded in evidence and balanced consideration, is essential to formulate policies that genuinely promote safety and uphold fundamental freedoms.

With gratitude,
Daniel Barbosa
Warwick RI