

March 23, 2026

To the House Judiciary Committee

Dear Friends,

I call you friends because the odds are we would find common ground for a cordial relationship, despite any political differences. That said, I oppose H8073. I can appreciate the intentions of those who are sponsoring the bill – after all, what a leap it would be to rid the world of guns, of the need for guns – but history teaches us that this is a pipe dream.

Where guns have been outlawed, not only could criminals care less, but governments invariably start abusing their law-abiding citizens. After that, genocide follows. History is littered with examples. There are no long-term “success stories” where gun confiscation is concerned.

“Oh, but this isn’t confiscation,” you might say. “Just the semi-automatics. You can keep all the rest.” Well, that’s pretty much the same argument made each time an incremental bite has been taken from the Second Amendment.

What you call an “assault rifle” – most specifically the AR-15 – has become the modern-day musket. As the musket once did, so now the AR-15 represents a deterrent against tyranny. That’s what the Bill of Rights is about, and especially the Second Amendment. You may recall that Rhode Island’s Founding Fathers would not even sign the Constitution without the Bill of Rights.

Please do not be part of a government the Bill of Rights is intended to prevent. Recent tragedies notwithstanding, you will not help the situation by punishing your fellow citizens any further. Please set H8073 aside. Instead, find ways to make it possible for law-abiding citizens to intervene quickly when such tragedies begin to unfold.

Thank you for your time, and all the best.

Yours,

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