

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:43 PM
To: Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Karen Alzate; Rep. Jennifer Stewart; Rep. Rebecca Kislak; Rep. Handy, Arthur; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Edwards, John G.; Rep. Ana Morales; Rep. Justine Caldwell; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8073 — Prohibited Firearms — Possession Ban

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Rep. Justine Caldwell and Sen. Bridget Valverde,

As a constituent and resident of East Greenwich, I am writing to express my opposition to RI 2026 H8073, the bill that expands the assault weapons ban to cover possession, not just sale. I strongly believe that this bill will have unintended consequences for law-abiding Rhode Island residents, and I urge you to vote against it.

One of my primary concerns is that this bill will disproportionately affect rural residents who rely on firearms for hunting and self-defense. In our state, many people hunt to provide food for their families, and this bill would force them to surrender their legally owned firearms. For example, I have spoken to several friends and neighbors in East Greenwich who are avid hunters and would be negatively impacted by this bill. They are not extremists, but rather responsible gun owners who use their firearms for legitimate purposes.

Another reason I oppose this bill is that it will not effectively address the root causes of gun violence. According to data from the Rhode Island State Police, the majority of gun crimes in our state are committed with handguns, not assault rifles. Therefore, I believe that we should be focusing on more effective solutions, such as improving mental health services and addressing socioeconomic factors that contribute to crime.

Furthermore, I am concerned that this bill will be a significant burden on our state's law enforcement agencies, which will be responsible for enforcing the new possession ban. This could divert resources away from more pressing public safety issues and create a significant administrative burden.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask that you vote against H8073. I appreciate your dedication to public service and the important work that you do to represent our community. I am confident that, together, we can find more effective solutions to address gun violence in our state.

With appreciation for your public service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI