

April 3, 2026

Honorable Chair McEntee and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to in strong support for Representative Tanzi's bill **H 8073 (AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- UNLAWFUL SALE OF PROHIBITED FIREARMS)**.

Rep. Tanzi's H8073 is important because it will strengthen the Unlawful Sale of Prohibited Firearms Act passed last year. That law made RI the 11th state in the country to restrict certain military-style weapons - including assault-style rifles like the AR-15. However, it does not cover some assault-style pistols and shotguns and, critically, does not ban possession—making it difficult to enforce, leaving dangerous weapons in circulation, and falling short of our neighboring states' standards. While prohibiting the sale and purchase is a step toward reducing access, it does not go far enough.

Nationally and in Rhode Island the proliferation of the number of semiautomatic assault weapons in our country is a public health and safety issue that should be addressed on both a federal and state level. 70% of Rhode Islanders support regulation of assault weapons. In the absence of federal law prohibiting assault weapons, it is up to the Rhode Island state legislature to join the ten other states which have passed such legislation, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York.

Assault weapons are weapons of warfare and do not belong in the hands of civilians. Restricting assault weapons is a common-sense public safety measure given the unconscionable devastation these weapons wreak on our society. **H 8073** would protect Rhode Islanders by reducing the likelihood of mass shooting injuries and deaths via assault weapons.

I urge you to vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation to pass **H 8073**. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kristen P. Chambers  
Richmond, RI