



RHODE ISLAND BROTHERHOOD OF CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

"Representing Those Who Work the Toughest Beat in the State"

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April 8, 2026

The Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island House of Representatives
State House
Providence, Rhode Island

Re: Opposition to H 8073 – Restrictions on Possession of Prohibited Firearms

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong opposition to House Bill 8073.

This legislation goes far beyond the prior restrictions enacted in 2025 by moving from limits on sale and transfer to a direct prohibition on possession itself, effectively turning law-abiding Rhode Islanders into potential felons for retaining property they lawfully acquired.

At its core, this bill raises serious constitutional concerns under the Second Amendment. Law-abiding citizens who legally purchased and possessed these firearms under existing law would now face criminal penalties of up to ten years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine simply for continued possession.

This is a profound shift in policy.

Citizens who complied with every requirement of the law when they purchased these firearms should not later be criminalized because the law has changed. That undermines confidence in the fairness and consistency of our legal system.

Equally troubling, this legislation provides no clear carve-out for individual law enforcement officers, correctional officers, retired law-enforcement personnel, or peace officers who may lawfully possess and train with these firearms in connection with their duties, personal safety, or retirement carry needs. While the bill contains a limited exception for law enforcement agencies as entities, it does not adequately address individual officers.

Most importantly, this bill will not disarm criminals.

Those who commit violent crimes and ignore existing firearms laws will continue to do so. The practical effect of this legislation falls almost entirely on law-abiding citizens who have followed every legal requirement.

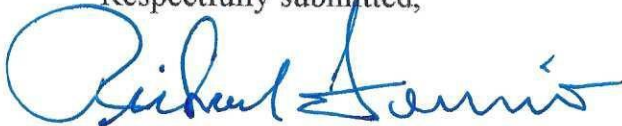
Criminals, by definition, do not obey firearm bans.

As a result, the bill risks removing firearms from responsible citizens while doing little to address the unlawful possession and use of firearms by those already willing to violate the law.

Public safety is best served by focusing on violent offenders, illegal trafficking, repeat firearm offenders, and meaningful enforcement against those who use weapons in the commission of crimes.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose House Bill 8073.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Ferruccio". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Ferruccio

President, Rhode Island Brotherhood of Correctional Officers