

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** Shivan Zaza <shivanzaza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 8, 2026 11:13 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Tanzi, Teresa A.; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer; Rep. Quattrocchi, Robert J.; Rep. Chippendale, Michael W.  
**Subject:** Strong Opposition to H8073 – Do Not Remove Grandfather Clause or Ban Possession of Lawfully Owned Firearms

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

You don't often get email from shivanzaza@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chair McEntee, Vice Chairs Knight and Dawson, and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As a resident of Coventry, Rhode Island, I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill H8073, which would amend the state's prohibited firearms law to add a ban on possession and eliminate the grandfather clause for firearms lawfully owned before July 1, 2026.

I urge you to vote against this bill and keep the current protections in place for law-abiding gun owners.

Key reasons for my opposition include:

- 1. Second Amendment Violations:** Under the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings in *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) and *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen* (2022), semi-automatic rifles and similar firearms in common use for lawful purposes (like self-defense, hunting, and sport) are protected. There are millions of these firearms owned nationwide, including in Rhode Island. Banning possession without a clear historical tradition of such restrictions fails the Bruen test.
- 2. Unconstitutional Retroactive Burden:** The original 2025 law included a grandfather clause as a compromise to avoid criminalizing existing owners. Removing it now would turn thousands of law-abiding citizens into felons overnight after a short divestment period, with no compensation. This goes beyond reasonable regulation and lacks precedent.
- 3. Impact on Law-Abiding Residents:** This bill targets responsible owners who have committed no crimes. It does nothing to address actual criminal misuse of firearms while burdening those who follow the law.

I respectfully ask that you oppose H8073 in committee, prevent it from advancing, and preserve the grandfather clause. Rhode Islanders value our constitutional rights and expect legislation that respects them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and would appreciate any updates on the bill's status.

Sincerely,

Shivan Zaza

A law abiding Coventry, RI resident