

Roberta DiMezza

From: Tj Harris <tjharris401@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 5, 2026 11:38 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: RE : HB 8073

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Dear Sir/Madam Representative,

I write to you as a veteran, a Rhode Island resident, and a responsible, law-abiding gun owner to respectfully ask that you reconsider the recent and devastating addition of one word to the proposed legislation: “possession.”

This issue is deeply personal to me. I recently inherited a rifle from my late grandfather, also a veteran, that would fall under this ban. This firearm is not simply an object to me—it is a cherished family heirloom that carries profound sentimental value. My grandfather and I were very close. When I was younger, we spent time together at the shooting range using that very rifle. During those moments, he instilled in me the principles of gun safety, discipline, and the serious responsibility that comes with firearm ownership.

Because of the addition of the word “possession,” I now face the possibility of being forced to sell or destroy something that represents my grandfather’s memory and the lessons he passed down to me—or risk being labeled a felon.

As a father of four and legal guardian of two, a licensed Master Captain, a veteran, and a law-abiding citizen of the great State of Rhode Island, I have always worked hard to live responsibly and within the law. The idea that I could be forced into criminal status for simply possessing a family heirloom is deeply troubling.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider the inclusion of “possession” in this legislation and to consider the unintended consequences it will have for responsible citizens like myself who are simply trying to preserve family history while continuing to follow the law.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the people of Rhode Island.

Respectfully yours,

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