

Ariana Costa

From: Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>
Sent: Friday, April 3, 2026 5:35 PM
To: Rep. Justine Caldwell; Rep. Brandon Potter; Rep. Jennifer Boylan; Rep. Marvin Knight; Rep. Carson, Lauren H.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Patricia McGaw; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Jenni Furtado; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Sen. Bridget Valverde; House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill H8075 — Mandatory Firearm Liability Insurance (\$1M)
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 strong opposition to RI 2026 H8075, the bill requiring all firearm owners to carry \$1M liability insurance. I believe this legislation would unfairly burden law-abiding Rhode Island residents, including many of my neighbors and friends who are responsible gun owners.

In my community, I've seen firsthand how this bill could harm local businesses and individuals. For example, many small gun shops and shooting ranges in our area are family-owned and operated, and the added expense of requiring their customers to carry liability insurance could be devastating. Not only would this drive up costs for consumers, but it could also lead to the closure of these businesses, resulting in lost jobs and economic hardship for our community. Furthermore, this bill could disproportionately affect low-income families and individuals who already struggle to make ends meet, as the cost of insurance would be a significant barrier to exercising their Second Amendment rights.

Another concern I have is that this bill would not effectively address the issue of gun safety. Instead of targeting the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health and crime, it would simply place an undue burden on law-abiding citizens. Additionally, it's worth noting that many gun owners already take steps to safely store and handle their firearms, and this bill would not provide any additional incentives for responsible behavior. I also worry about the potential for this bill to create a black market for firearms, as some individuals may be unable or unwilling to purchase the required insurance, leading to a lack of accountability and oversight.

I urge you to consider the real-world impact of this bill on Rhode Island residents and vote against H8075. I believe that our state should focus on finding solutions that address the root causes of gun violence, rather than placing unnecessary burdens on law-abiding citizens. I appreciate your dedication to public service and your commitment to representing the interests of our community. Thank you for your time and service, Jonathan Newkirk East Greenwich, RI