

Roberta DiMezza

From: Chris Morin <cmorin543@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:19 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. H7268

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Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed legislation, H 7268, which significantly amends sections of the General Laws relating to criminal offenses and weapons.

This bill, as presented, seeks to make substantial changes to the current laws governing the sale, possession, and requirements for firearm safety in our state. One of the most concerning aspects of this legislation is its potential to restrict law-abiding citizens' ability to purchase and own firearms. By imposing stricter controls and additional bureaucratic hurdles, the bill not only infringes on our Second Amendment rights but also complicates the process for individuals who seek firearms for legitimate purposes, such as self-defense or recreational shooting.

Moreover, the requirement for firearm purchasers to pass a safety test administered by the Department of Environmental Management, while well-intentioned in promoting safety, may serve as an unnecessary barrier for many. This aspect of the legislation seems to overlook the fact that most firearm owners are responsible individuals who take the safety and legality of their actions seriously. Adding more layers of regulation does not necessarily equate to increased safety and may, in fact, penalize law-abiding citizens without effectively addressing the root causes of firearm misuse.

It is also critical to consider the impact of repealing section 11-47-35.2 related to the sale of rifles/shotguns, as proposed by this bill. The elimination of this section could have unintended consequences on hunters and sportsmen in Rhode Island, further restricting their ability to engage in these traditional activities that are an integral part of our state's cultural heritage.

In conclusion, while the goal of increasing safety and reducing gun violence is commendable, H 7268 appears to approach these issues in a manner that could unduly burden Rhode Island's responsible firearm owners without guaranteeing a significant improvement in public safety. I urge you to consider these points carefully and to oppose the passage of this legislation. Our efforts should be directed towards measures that effectively address the complex factors contributing to gun violence, without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Very Respectfully,

Christopher Morin
Coventry, RI
Firearms Policy Coalition Member
