

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** C Correia <correiac.1776@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 1:47 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Proposed Firearms Laws in RI

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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Hello Senators and Representatives,

I hope that this email finds you well. I am writing in reference to the proposed firearms laws in our state. First off, as an individual who firmly believes in our Constitution and the amendments listed in the Bill of Rights, I am strongly against legislation that denies our 2nd Amendment rights. This amendment is not only part of what is necessary for the security of a free state, it is, as stated, "the right of the people to bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Simply put, this ensures our ability to possess firearms for lawful purposes, including self-defense. The Supreme Court has affirmed that the 2nd Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self defense, not just for militia service. This was further supported via rulings in the high profile cases below:

- [District of Columbia v. Heller \(2008\)](#) affirmed the individual right to possess firearms for self-defense.
- [McDonald v. City of Chicago \(2010\)](#) extended the Second Amendment to apply to state and local governments.
- [New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen \(2022\)](#) addressed the right to carry weapons in public spaces.

Secondly, and with the principles above in mind, I am a father, husband, friend, and member of the community who cares about the safety of my family, friends, and those around me. Given the fact that brazen criminals are present nationwide in the varied folds of society, many of whom disregard the life and limb of other individuals in the commission of felonious acts, I find it very important to be able to appropriately act in self-defense of loved ones, or myself, should imminent danger to life and limb be present. This protection would not be possible with the overreach of additional, new legislation that would only limit firearm options to the law-abiding. As a side note on limitations, proposed changes in State law would (and already have) also affect many local firearms based businesses and their employees. Jobs would be lost or hours cut through low sales volumes related to a reduced product line. Even worse would be a situation where businesses are forced to close. This would lead to total loss of employment, thus further hurting local and state commerce. I would be remiss if I did not mention what effect even further limitations on firearms would have on shooting for sport, recreation, and hunting.

Thirdly, I am a retired law enforcement officer, having served 21 years at a municipal agency in Rhode Island. During my tenure, I served in both the Patrol Division and the Detective Division. My roles ran from patrol officer to supervisory positions, all the way up through the rank of Captain. I also gained additional experience and insight on crime, public safety, and firearms awareness by being a member of the Special Response Team ("SWAT") until my retirement, as well as a Firearms Instructor. With all of this experience in mind, I can truly say that trouble and danger can be lurking

anywhere. Criminals don't care about the law, including additional ones restricting firearms. They will act irrespective of what is "on paper" in order to get, or do, what they want, oftentimes which involves harming individuals. An informed, aware, law-abiding citizen that is exercising his or her 2nd Amendment right can be an aid to themselves, or those around them, should a life and death situation arise at the hands of an "alleged" criminal. This can be so critical as response time from law enforcement is limited by many factors which can sadly make for personnel arriving when a terrible incident is already over with. As a saying goes that you may have heard, "Only a good guy with a gun can stop a bad guy with a gun".

In closing, I implore you not to vote for legislation that will restrict the Constitutional, 2nd Amendment rights of law-abiding Rhode Island citizens. They/we are good individuals that can make a positive difference in the community by being able to help at a critical moment's notice, by being impactful to the livelihood of others through the local economy, and /or as an asset to family, friends, or group members who wish to share moments engaging in the sporting aspect of the activity. I suggest focusing legislation, or the enforcement thereof, on putting the "teeth" back into existing laws. The recent years of the criminal justice system have turned into a "turnstile" of sorts in so many areas of the country with defendants being released rather quickly on low to no bail. Oftentimes they are not held at all. Additionally, charges have been reduced from felonies to misdemeanors or from misdemeanors to filings, as well as being dropped altogether. This operating procedure demands little accountability from the defendants, they have become accustomed to getting "out early," and are thus likely to reoffend. Arrest, fully charge, fully prosecute, and fully incarcerate upon guilty verdicts to make criminals realize that there will be full, REAL consequences for their illegal actions. THAT will mitigate criminal behavior overall, inclusive of firearms violations, and put the onus on who deserves to be penalized.

I therefore oppose bills H5436, H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, and H5891, as written. I appreciate your time and consideration in this important matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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