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Rhode Island House Judiciary

Chairman Representative Robert E. Craven,

**RE: H-5654 Concealed Carry Licensing: Unattended Consequences of legislation /
Against Passage**

Dear Chairman Craven & fellow Committee members:

Eliminating the only state provision that sets legal guidelines for non-residents applying for a concealed carry permit is a reckless decision that invites unnecessary legal issues. Even Massachusetts—known for its strict gun laws—allows non-residents to obtain a concealed carry permit.

This bill not only impacts non-residents but also harms Rhode Island residents, especially those who:

1. **Live in areas where local authorities don't issue concealed carry permits**, leaving them without options.
2. **Face long delays from departments that fail to process applications in a timely manner**, sometimes waiting a year or more just to exercise their rights.

Additionally, with Rhode Island and Massachusetts sharing roadways, this amendment will create **avoidable confusion and legal jeopardy for law-abiding citizens**, increasing the risk of wrongful incarceration. Instead of promoting public safety, it unfairly punishes those who simply want to follow the law.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to **reject Bill 5654** as an impractical and harmful proposal.

Sincerely,

Nicole Hopkins