

2a Support / Oppose Gun Laws

FROM THE DESK OF

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

TO: Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee

FROM: John P. Silvaggio

DATE: April 14, 2026

FORWARD: Analysis of Proposed Amendments to R.I.G.L. Title 11, Chapter 47, from a Professional Instructor currently implementing active regional training mandates.

I. A Step Backward for Social Justice: S2164 introduces an ambiguous 'good faith belief' standard for 'gang involvement' that risks permanently stripping civil liberties from individuals who have successfully completed state-sponsored rehabilitation programs; Presented here is a legacy graduate of the Amer-I-Can curriculum during a residency at the RITS who subsequently became a mentor and was thereafter vetted and issued a permit to carry, attesting to living proof that these programs provide the structure necessary for at-risk individuals to become productive and responsible members of society. By adding further **subjective lingo** to a process the state already struggles to define fairly, we are not increasing safety—we are creating a mechanism for lifelong disenfranchisement and guilt by association when the system already proves that rehabilitation works.

See R.I.G.L. § 12-19-39(a) definition "informal" and "group of three"

II. Death By Delay: S2295 & S2726: While S2295 adversely interacts with R.I.G.L. 11-47-11 by effectively nullifying the same-day procurement exceptions, S2726 exacerbates this in Section 2 by repealing R.I.G.L. § 11-47-35.1. These bills both attempt to strip away recognized "proper reason" wait exceptions for high-risk witnesses under immediate threat, replacing them with an S2726 training waiver. Rationing acquisitions for state assets creates a Clear and Present Danger when transitioning between high-threat environments. Regarding prospective instructors, the 'period of instruction' language fails to mitigate a **multi-month bottleneck**; to deliver a nationally recognized home firearms safety course, an instructor must possess a minimum of eight firearms to assess

participants' ability to safely load and unload single and double actions across all four architectures.

III. Statutory Conflict: S2710 Creates an irreconcilable conflict by criminalizing the possession of prerequisite equipment required to deliver the nationally recognized safety curriculum. As an instructor currently implementing the newest regional standards, to the best of my knowledge at this time one cannot teach 'safe handling and unloading' of modern platforms if the proposed bill makes possession of teaching tools a felony.

IV. Curriculum Mismatch: S2726 The proposed 8-hour training requirement mirrors the national time commitment of recognized "Level 2" niche operator courses (e.g., Basics of Pistol Shooting) which focus on a single platform. Historically, when Massachusetts transitioned from "may-issue" to "shall-issue," this 8-hour course was chosen because they lacked the live-fire requirements Rhode Islanders enjoy under R.I.G.L. § 11-47-15. To retort, this bill repeals R.I.G.L. § 11-47-35.1, thereby delaying high-risk witnesses, whom the state has an affirmative duty to protect, from the reasonable defense of life and limb while under immediate threat.

V. Closing: When analyzing the entirety of the Title 11 Chapter 47 Weapons section, professional instructors reach a consensus: upgrading a practical fundamental safety test to the "Knowledge, Skills, and Attitude" necessary for safely handling all major platforms, Home Firearm Safety is the standard: This 4-hour curriculum effectively covers the loading, unloading, ammunition identification, and safe storage of all platforms (Revolver, Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun) in half the time, allowing for the addition of a Suicide-Prevention presentation to remedy constituent concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Silvaggio".

John Silvaggio

Curriculum Vitae

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

OBJECTIVE: 20-Year Legacy Instructor (Civilian/LEO) currently implementing April 2026 Massachusetts State Police Training Mandates.

DOCUMENT I: 19-Year Record of Continuous Accrediting Originating May 2007 - Present



 MENU

 TRAINING

MY RATINGS

RATINGS	ORIGINATION DATE	EXPIRATION DATE
Certified Home Firearm Safety	4/19/2019	5/31/2028
Certified Pistol	5/29/2007	5/31/2028
Certified Rifle	3/4/2022	5/31/2028
Certified Shotgun	5/29/2007	5/31/2028
Personal Protection In The Home	5/29/2007	5/31/2028
Personal Protection Outside The Home	5/29/2007	5/31/2028

Curriculum Vitae

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

DOCUMENT II: Active 2026 Regional Instructor Certification



Curriculum Vitae

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

DOCUMENT III: ASP Confrontation Continuum – Defensive Tactics / Use-of-Force Standards

Utilized by Rhode Island Municipal and State Law Enforcement.



ASP

Tactical Baton Instructor

John Silvaggio
AIC Registration Number 30904

Awarded in recognition of technique, ability and knowledge that have been demonstrated and tested in a competency based Instructor Certification Program for the ASP Tactical Baton sanctioned by the Training and Certification Section of Armament Systems and Procedures.



Awarded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 7 December 2010


Kevin Parsons, PhD
Chairman and CEO

Curriculum Vitae

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

DOCUMENT IV: Certified Mechanical expertise in the platforms impacted by S2710/S2726, regarding the mechanical prerequisites for safe handling and maintenance curriculum.



Hereby Certifies That

John P. Silvaggio

has satisfactorily completed 24 hours of instruction in

Springfield Armory Armorers

Presented this 15th Day of October, 2009

(Certification valid for 3 years)


Instructor


John F. Meyer, Jr.
President

In conjunction with

 **Northeast**
Wisconsin Technical College
Your Community College

The Oldest Name In American Firearms
SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY USA

www.springfield-armory.com

Team One Network • 3900 Early Road • Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540.437.7277 • Fax: 540.434.7796
E-mail: info@teadmonenetwork.com • Web: www.teadmonenetwork.com

Curriculum Vitae

JOHN P. SILVAGGIO

DOCUMENT V: Amer-I-Can Graduate & RITS Mentor: Empirical evidence of state-sponsored rehabilitation efficacy. Subsequent vetting and licensure by the State of Rhode Island confirm the redundancy of the subjective 'good faith' standards proposed in S2164.



"Eliminate the negative, establish the facts and choose your best option."

2nd Amendment Violation

From Disla Robin <disla.robin@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 3:21 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

To the Honorable members of the General Assembly,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed legislation regarding bills; S-2295,S-2611, S-2710,S-2726, S2971, S-3108, and S-3110. As a law-abiding citizen and constituent, I believe this bill directly infringes upon my Second Amendment rights as clarified by the Supreme Court in NYSRPA v. Bruen.

Be advised that should this bill pass into law and be enforced, it would constitute a violation of "clearly established" constitutional rights. Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, state and local officials may be held personally and professionally liable for actions taken under the "color of law" that deprive a citizen of their constitutional protections.

While the state often claims sovereign immunity, the legal precedent established in Ex parte Young and subsequent civil rights litigation allows for suits against officials to enjoin the enforcement of unconstitutional mandates. I strongly urge you to consider the legal and financial ramifications of defending a policy that lacks a historical tradition in American firearm regulation.

I request that you vote **NO** on this measure and instead focus on policies that do not penalize responsible, law-abiding owners.

Sincerely,

Robin Disla



Outlook

Hearing April 14 2026

From Gary Bryson <gbryson15@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 2:34 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

You don't often get email from gbryson15@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to you to request that you oppose the below bills set to be heard today:

S-2295 One Gun Per Month
S-2611 Firearm Industry Liability
S-2710 Prohibited Firearms Expansion
S-2726 Firearm Purchasing Act
S-2971 Firearm Restriction Registry
S-3108 Use of Expunged Records
S-3110 Under 18 Possession Ban

Thank you.

Gary Bryson
Coventry

14APR2026

Dear Rhode Island Senate Judiciary Committee members,

Hello, I am Douglas Moorcroft, a Navy veteran from South Kingstown. **Please vote against Senate bills S2710, S2295, S2611, S2726, S2958, S2971, S3108 and S3110.**

Please follow your oath of office and vote against all of these unconstitutional over-the-top proposed firearm restrictions. **Only traitorous politicians would even consider voting for S2710, which bans most modern firearms in Rhode Island.**

To reduce firearm crimes, politicians need to work with patriotic gun owners, which will never happen when legislators attempt to fill up the prisons with veterans and other gun owners. **Criminals obey gun laws in Rhode Island like politicians follow their oaths of office.**

Notes:

- **Proposed gun bans are the main driving force behind Americans purchasing an obscene number of firearms over the years! Do the math!**
- The 2022 Rhode Island magazine ban encouraged many like myself to switch to magnums- that is how gun control works!
- Everyone at Fort Hood followed the rules against guns on base, except for the shooter!
- If the government does not follow the Constitution, why should the people follow the government?
- If you think gun control is a good idea, you need to read a history book.
- That background sound you hear is our country being destroyed. Please take a moment to think how these bills would really affect our state and country.

Sincerely,



Douglas H. Moorcroft
724 Stony Fort Rd.
Saunderstown, RI 02874

OPPOSE Senate Bills - S2295, S2726, S2611, S2710, S2971, S3108, S3110

From nepepe@verizon.net <nepepe@verizon.net>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 2:07 PM

To SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

You don't often get email from nepepe@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Senate Judiciary,

Rhode Island already enforces some of the strictest firearm regulations in the nation. Beyond concerns that these measures may conflict with constitutional rights, there's little indication that the latest set of proposed bills would meaningfully improve public safety. Lawmakers previously assured residents that gun laws passed in recent years would reduce crime, yet there's no clear evidence those policies have had the intended effect. This new package appears to follow the same path. Rather than adding more legislation, the focus should shift toward strengthening law enforcement efforts and expanding mental health resources. Rhode Island already has ample gun laws in place for prosecutors to work with.

That is why I am urging you to OPPOSE the following bills:

- S2295
- S2726
- S2611
- S2710
- S2971
- S3108
- S3110

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Pepe
South Kingstown, RI

Support for upcoming bills

From Russell Morse <rjmorse@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:58 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

[You don't often get email from rjmorse@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I would like to affirm support for the following bills:

- * S-2153 (Reciprocity)
- * S-2155 (Constitutional Carry)
- * S-2163 (Appeals Process)
- * S-2164 & S-2277 (Permit Reform / "Suitable Person")
- * S-2283 (Property Rights Protection)
- * S-2285 (Penalties for Stolen Firearms)
- * S-2306 (Suppressors for Hunting)
- * S-2395 (Stun Gun Access)

Signed

Russell Morse

Woonsocket RI

Sent from my iPhone

Oppose upcoming bills

From Russell Morse <rjmorse@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:55 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

[You don't often get email from rjmorse@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I would state opposition to the following bills:

- S-2295 (One Gun Per Month)
- S-2611 (Firearm Industry Liability)
- S-2710 (Prohibited Firearms Expansion)
- S-2726 (Firearm Purchasing Act)
- S-2971 (Firearm Restriction Registry)
- S-3108 (Use of Expunged Records)
- S-3110 (Under 18 Possession Ban)

Signed,
Russell Morse
Woonsocket RI
Sent from my iPhone

Written testimony

From sam vito <vito647@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:32 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

[You don't often get email from vito647@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Senate Judiciary Committee members,

I am writing in opposition of S2295, 2611, 2710, 2726, 2958, 2971

I am in support of S2153, 2163, 2164, 2277, 2283, 2285, 2306, 2395, 3108.

I wish I had time to expound on my reasoning but I trust that many of my sentiments will be expressed in the testimony of other likeminded citizens.

Please consider that the decisions you make may not only erode our rights today but compromise the liberty of my children and generations to come. We do not know the hardships they will face when we are all long gone and these rights were entrusted to us by prior generations and it is shortsighted for this body to degrade them.

Thank you for your consideration,
Samuel Vito
Foster, RI

Written Testimony – Firearm-Related Bills Before Senate Judiciary

From Dave Wood <coldrwood@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:31 PM

To Sen. LaMountain, Matthew L. <sen-lamountain@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. McKenney, Mark P. <sen-mckenney@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Bissailon, Jacob E. <sen-bissailon@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Burke, John P. <sen-burke@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Dimitri, Andrew R. <sen-dimitri@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Euer, Dawn <sen-euer@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Paolino, Thomas J. <sen-paolino@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Patalano, Todd M. <sen-patalano@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Quezada, Ana B <sen-quezada@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Raptakis, Leonidas P. <sen-raptakis@rilegislature.gov>

Cc Sen. Lawson, Valarie J <sen-lawson@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica <sen-delacruz@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Rogers, Gordon E. <sen-rogers@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Morgan, Elaine J. <sen-morgan@rilegislature.gov>

You don't often get email from coldrwood@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Chairman LaMountain and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is **David R. Wood**, from Charlestown (Senate District 34). I am a retired Colonel of the United States Army Reserve, a high-school English teacher of nearly thirty years, and a certified NRA Instructor and Coach working with both junior athletes and the University of Rhode Island Rifle Team. I recognize that many members of this committee have longstanding positions on firearm legislation, and I am realistic about the political landscape in Rhode Island. My purpose tonight is not to challenge anyone's ideology, but to ensure that the legal, fiscal, and practical realities of these bills are part of the public record.

S2710 – Prohibited Firearms Possession Ban

S2710 eliminates the grandfather clause that lawmakers explicitly promised when the prior law passed and replaces it with a full possession ban. Every Rhode Islander who lawfully purchased and responsibly stored a now-prohibited firearm would be required to sell it out of state, surrender it, or destroy it by **December 31, 2026**. After that date, simple possession becomes a felony with penalties of up to ten years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, and mandatory forfeiture. Retroactively criminalizing people who complied with the law is not a public-safety strategy — it is a breach of trust between citizens and their government.

The bill also targets the wrong population. Recent high-profile shootings in Rhode Island involved **legally purchased handguns**, not rifles, and nothing in S2710 would have prevented them. Meanwhile, multiple federal courts are reviewing similar bans, and the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to resolve the split. Passing a possession ban now risks committing the state to years of costly litigation over a law that may soon be unconstitutional nationwide, while punishing only the people who already follow the law.

S2726 – Mandatory 8-Hour Training / AG-Controlled Certification

Rhode Island already has a functioning, decades-old system for firearm and ammunition purchases: the DEM Blue Card or DEM Hunter Safety Card. Both require passing a test, both are inexpensive and

accessible, and both have produced a long record of safe outcomes. S2726 would abolish this system and replace it with a Massachusetts-style regime controlled entirely by the Attorney General, expanding the required course from two hours to **at least eight hours**, adding mandatory live-fire training, and introducing a new written test that must be passed before a certificate is issued.

Massachusetts attempted a similar overhaul recently, and on the day the law took effect, the state had **no approved instructors, no approved curriculum, and no approved courses**, leaving thousands of residents unable to exercise a legal right. S2726 risks the same failure here. It also opens the door for curriculum written by advocacy organizations rather than nationally recognized training bodies. The result is more cost, more delay, and more bureaucracy for first-time and low-income firearm owners — with no evidence that it improves safety.

S2611 – Firearm Industry Accountability Act

S2611 creates sweeping civil liability for firearm manufacturers, distributors, and retailers by imposing vague “reasonable controls” standards and allowing lawsuits from private individuals, municipalities, and the Attorney General. In practice, this invites litigation against lawful businesses for the criminal acts of third parties. At the federal level, the Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) was enacted specifically to prevent this type of liability expansion, and S2611 attempts to re-open that door at the state level.

The likely outcome is not a reduction in crime, but a wave of lawsuits that small Rhode Island FFLs, ranges, and gunsmiths cannot afford to defend. These are the businesses that provide safety training, secure storage guidance, and community oversight — the very infrastructure that promotes responsible ownership. S2611 threatens to drive them out of the state entirely while doing nothing to address the criminal trafficking and repeat-offender violence that drive gun crime in Rhode Island.

Additional Bills of Concern

In addition to the three bills discussed above, I respectfully urge the committee to **oppose**:

- **S2295** – One-firearm-per-30-days purchase limit
- **S2971** – Voluntary Firearm Restrictions Act
- **S3108** – Expunged records accessible for carry-permit decisions

Each of these bills imposes burdens on responsible firearm owners without addressing the individuals who actually drive violence in our state.

Federal Legal Exposure

Finally, I would note that several of these proposals — particularly **S2710** and **S2611** — would almost certainly be challenged under long-standing federal precedent allowing suits against state officials who enforce unconstitutional laws. Other states are already defending costly litigation over similar statutes. In addition, the U.S. Department of Justice has recently opened civil-rights investigations into state firearm policies that raise constitutional concerns, as seen in Virginia. Rhode Island should be cautious about adopting laws that mirror those already under federal scrutiny, especially when the legal landscape is shifting rapidly in the federal courts.

Bills I Support

I also wish to note my **support** for **S2153, S2155, S2163, S2164, S2277, and S2306**, which focus on criminals, due process, and practical safety measures rather than on responsible, law-abiding firearm

owners.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state. If any member of the committee or leadership would like additional information on youth marksmanship programs, collegiate rifle competition, or the real-world impact of these proposals on responsible firearm owners, I would be glad to provide it.

Respectfully,
David R. Wood
COL, USAR (Retired)
Charlestown, RI
Senate District 34

Sent from Outlook

I OPPOSE Senate Bills 2295, 2611, 2710, 2726, 2958 and 2971

From Jeff Pelletier <jpelletiersri@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:27 PM

To Senate Judiciary Committee <SenateJudiciary@rilegislature.onmicrosoft.com>

You don't often get email from jpelletiersri@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to Senate Bills 2295, 2611, 2710, 2726, 2958 and 2971

None of these bills will do anything to stop “gun violence” committed by criminals. They seem to be written to simply put an undue burden on the law-abiding gun owners in Rhode Island and the small businesses that serve them.

I respectfully ask that you NOT support these bills.

Thank you for your attention,

Respectfully

--

*Jeffrey Pelletier
North Smithfield, RI*

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. - Edmund Burke