

---

**FW: Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill S2053 — Armed Campus Police Mandate (Senate)**

---

**From** SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

**Date** Mon 4/6/2026 10:09 AM

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

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Jonathan Newkirk <noreply@not-the-end.com>

**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 5:35 PM

**To:** Sen. Frank Appollonio <sen-appollonio@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Michael Tikoian <sen-tikoian@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Ciccone III, Frank A. <sen-ciccone@rilegislature.gov>; Sen. Jessica de la Cruz <sen-delacruz@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. John Paolino <sen-paolino@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Marc Famiglietti <sen-famiglietti@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Frank Patalano <sen-patalano@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Matthew LaMountain <sen-lamountain@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Melissa Murray <sen-thompson@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. James Dimitri <sen-dimitri@rilin.state.ri.us>; Rep. Justine Caldwell <rep-caldwell@rilin.state.ri.us>; Sen. Bridget Valverde <sen-valverde@rilin.state.ri.us>; SLegislation <slegislation@rilegislature.gov>

**Subject:** Constituent Letter Re: RI 2026 Bill S2053 — Armed Campus Police Mandate (Senate)

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 S2053, the "Armed Campus Police Mandate (Senate)" bill. I firmly believe that mandating the arming of campus police at public colleges is not in the best interest of our state's students, faculty, and community members.

I have several concerns about this bill, primarily related to its potential impact on our community. Firstly, introducing more firearms onto college campuses increases the risk of accidents and violent incidents. Secondly, it may create a hostile or intimidating environment for students, particularly those who have experienced trauma related to guns. Thirdly, it will likely lead to significant additional costs for our public colleges, which could be better spent on supporting student mental health, academic programs, and other vital services. Lastly, I worry that this mandate will undermine the trust and relationships that campus police have worked to build with the students and faculty they serve.

As someone who has lived in East Greenwich for many years, I have seen firsthand the importance of maintaining a safe and welcoming environment on our college campuses. I believe that this bill would take us in the wrong direction. I urge you to consider the potential consequences of this mandate and to prioritize the well-being and safety of our community members.

I respectfully ask that you vote against S2053. Thank you for your time and service,

Jonathan Newkirk  
East Greenwich, RI