



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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February 27, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chairman  
House Committee on Judiciary  
State House, House Lounge  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: HB 7216: Crime Gun NIBIN tracing**

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write today to express support for HB 7216, sponsored by Representative Jennifer Boylan, legislation that would require all ballistic evidence be entered into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (known as “NIBIN”) database.

Protecting Rhode Islanders from the threat of gun violence is one of my top priorities as Attorney General, and while there is no easy fix, I have continued to advocate for more resources and coordinated strategies to focus our collective law enforcement efforts on the true drivers of violent crime and gun violence in Rhode Island. This legislation, consistent with our violent crime initiative, will provide a uniform approach to ballistics testing within the state, which is crucial in that effort.

We saw the advantages of NIBIN tracing in solving the recent murder case of 24-year-old Miya Brophy-Baermann. In that case, Providence police uncovered a ghost gun during a routine motor vehicle stop. Despite the firearm having no serial numbers, investigators were able to trace the gun through the NIBIN database, which indicated that it was a possible match to the gun used in Brophy-Baermann's shooting. Further analysis confirmed the findings and that the spent casings from the shooting scene had been expelled from the gun uncovered in the traffic stop.

While this legislation does not substitute the need for passing critical gun violence prevention legislation, I support efforts that encourage law enforcement's use of these important resources so that we may direct our prosecutorial resources to the individuals who are driving violent crime. I appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation and am available for any further questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha  
Attorney General