

Jennifer Lima
H7373/H7217
Support

I am writing in support of Representative Caldwell's secure storage bill, H7373 and Representative Knight's assault weapons ban, H7217. I am writing as a mother, and a member of the North Kingstown School Committee but the views I express are my own and do not represent those of the committee.

Gun violence is the #1 killer of children and teens in our country and that is beyond unacceptable. More than 80% of child deaths by gun suicide involve a gun belonging to a family member. Current Rhode Island law addresses only loaded firearms that children under 16 can access, but H7373 would extend that to include all firearms loaded or unloaded that children under 18 can access. H7217 would ban the possession, sale and transfer of assault weapons. Assault weapons have been used in the seven deadliest mass shootings in the last decade. It's an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer.

Children are growing up traumatized by the fact that a tragedy like what happened in Uvalde, or Parkland (or too many others to mention) can happen in their school. And they are also growing up traumatized by the drills that have to be conducted as a result of that reality. There is only so much that can be done at the school level. There is only so much that can be done at the local level. We need action at the state and the federal level to limit access to the guns that make shootings like this possible.

As a mother I worry about my own children's safety, but as a school committee member I worry about the safety of every child in our district - as well as the teachers, the staff, and every single person that comes in and out of the building on a daily basis. Their physical safety, and their mental wellbeing are at the top of my mind every single day. As the top law makers in the state, I am sure that goes ten fold for each of you which is why I hope that you will vote these bills out of committee and send them to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We know the majority of Rhode Islanders and the majority of legislators support these life saving bills.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lima
4 Hickory Drive East
North Kingstown, RI