

TO: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Ramsey Davis

RE: Support: H 7373, H 7217

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Ramsey Davis. I live in Cranston and my representative is Brandon Potter.

I have spoken here over the past 5 years. I am a retired K-12 teacher of 31 years. I served in the USMC in Viet Nam for a year as a rifleman, radio man and interpreter. I carried a M-16. I was stationed on the demilitarized zone and experienced combat.

I mention all this because I, unlike most of you, have experienced the effect of gunshot wounds from assault weapons. While less than 25' from me, my Navy medic had his leg partially severed at the thigh and died from a single round. I have helped to load dozens of comrades onto medivac helicopters in body bags killed by assault rifles.

These weapons do not belong in the hands of civilians. They are not effective for hunting game. Assault rifles destroy the game. They are only effective in hunting and killing humans. I ask you to look at some of the operating room or crime scenes where an assault weapon was involved.

I lived it. The images will not quickly flee your minds. ¹

Surrounding states have banned assault weapons successfully. Why should Rhode Island be the supplier of weapons for surrounding states?

As to the **Safe Storage bill**, for those of you who feel you must have a weapon at the quick and ready at all times, I have a solution available at any gun shop or online. Pepper or bear spray, effective to 20'.

Safely place these canisters around your home to quickly disable your assailant. And if you make a mistake and disable a family member you will not have killed them. Last week a Missouri man mistakenly shot and killed his mother.

And if a child gets their curious hands on one and discharges it.....they or a friend will NOT be dead.

Please urge leadership to allow these bills out of committee and to the floor for a vote.

1. Testimony of medical examiner for one of 17 killed at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Valentines Day 2018

According to a medical examiner's testimony, one bullet left two holes in Joaquin's arm; another struck him in the leg, making it difficult for him to flee. The fatal shot likely came as Joaquin instinctively raised his right hand, palm facing outward, to protect his head. The bullet entered Joaquin's palm and exited through the web between his index finger and thumb. The bullet, along with parts of Joaquin's hand bone, slammed into his temple, shattering his skull in what the medical examiner described as a "lead storm." It was, he testified, as if someone had set off a cherry bomb inside Joaquin's head. "Mr. Oliver's head was only kept together by his scalp and forehead. Everything under the skin was obliterated, and the brain itself was morcellated, and was unrecognizable once I removed it."

The Atlantic: March 2024 pg. 23.
