

Roberta DiMezza

From: Suzanne Ellis Wernevi <suzanne.ellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 9:52 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: testimony in support of secure storage H7373 and regulate assault weapons H7217

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chairman Craven and members of the Judiciary Committee,
I am writing to support Representative Caldwell's bill, H7373, Safe Firearm Storage and Representative Knight's H7217, Regulating Assault Weapons.
I am re-submitting the testimony I submit every year – the only thing that changes while these bills languish in committee are the ages of my kids and the number of people in the United States killed by assault weapons and unsecured firearms.

I am the mother of two elementary school children. When twenty first graders and their teachers were murdered in Sandy Hook in 2012, my son was six months old. He is now entering seventh grade, and in that time, **gun violence has become the leading cause of death for children in the United States**. This is unacceptable. We don't have to live like this. Our children don't have to die like this. We can fix this.

This committee has made meaningful progress on gun safety. But the job is not done. **I am among the 70.% of Rhode Islanders that support regulating assault weapons, and I demand action.** After 11 years, the citizens of Rhode Island have the right to ask, *what are you waiting for?* It is time for a vote.

Safe Firearm Storage is the absolute bare minimum we can ask of gun owners. It's time for a vote. Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation. Please vote these bills out of committee and send it to the Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Suzanne Wernevi
Providence / Constituent of Rep. Edie Ajello

