



CITY OF NEWPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Xay Khamsyvoravong
Mayor

March 12, 2024

Hon. Dawn Euer
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

Hon. Robert Craven
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Support for SB-2202 (Lauria) and SB-2653 (DiPalma)
Support for HB-7217 (Knight) and HB-7373 (Caldwell)**

Dear Chairs Euer, Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As a proud member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns with Everytown for Gun Safety, I write in support of the aforementioned gun safety bills. The safe storage legislation and the bill to ban assault weapons will make our communities safer: by limiting the risk of suicide, inadvertent shootings and reducing the number of military grade weapons on our streets.

Prohibiting assault weapons in Rhode Island can save lives. Assault weapons are commonplace in mass shootings and make shootings more lethal. Research shows that restrictions on assault weapons can help prevent mass shooting injuries and fatalities as well as reduce the devastation of daily gun violence. Over the past decade, the five deadliest mass shooting incidents in America all involved the use of assault weapons (Las Vegas, NV; Orlando, FL; Newtown, CT; Sutherland Springs, TX; and El Paso, TX). Finally, a 2018 study found that mass shooting fatalities were 70 percent less likely to occur from 1994 to 2004, when the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was in effect, than during the 12 years studied before and after the prohibition.

Safe storage for firearms plays a vital role in reducing the risk of gun violence, and can protect both children and adults by preventing unintentional shootings, gun suicides, and gun theft. These bills would update Rhode Island's firearm storage law to require all firearms to be stored securely when not being carried. We are all safer when gun owners act responsibly by storing their firearms securely

I believe that these bills enjoy the support of a majority of the House and Senate members and I humbly urge the Committees to pass these bills onto the House and Senate floors for a vote this year. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

Xay Khamsyvoravong
Mayor

XK:sc