

FROM: Kathleen Layton

RE: Support: H 7373, H 7217

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kathleen Layton. I am happy to live in North Kingstown, Rhode Island and my representative is Rep. Julie A. Casimiro.

I am emailing to urge you to support common-sense gun safety bills that will make all Rhode Islanders safer. As gun violence devastates communities across our nation, we must do everything we can here in Rhode Island to prevent gun homicides, suicides, and injuries.

I volunteer in the North Kingstown School Department and have three kids, attending a class in a public school, as I type. I, and they, live in fear about gun violence. It's becoming painfully obvious that gun violence is the web that weaves all Americans together and I urge you to break the cycle. More needs to be done and yes, guns are the issue.

Specifically, I urge you to prioritize support for:

- H 7373(Caldwell), which would require all firearms to be stored securely when not under the control of their owner or another authorized user and promote efforts to educate gun owners, parents, and students about the benefits of secure gun storage; and
- H 7217 (Knight), which would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons, while providing a pathway for current owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they currently have.

These bills will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms – which are commonplace in mass shootings – in our communities and also save lives by preventing firearm suicide, gun theft, unintentional shootings, and unauthorized access to guns by helping ensure that secure storage becomes the norm across Rhode Island.

Please pass common-sense gun safety bills out of committee and to the House floor.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Layton

17 Pilgrim Drive
North Kingstown, RI 02852
401-662-9262