

**From:** Mike Luciano <luckymike17@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 8, 2024 12:15 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry  
**Cc:** Rep. Fenton-Fung, Barbara Ann; Rep\_Chippendale  
**Subject:** 2024 -- H 7217  
  
**Importance:** High  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

## **To House Judiciary Committee and Administrator,**

Please include this email expressing my opposition as stated below.

### **I am writing to state my opposition to House bill H7217.**

First, there is no such thing as an “assault weapon”. The term “Assault weapon” is a made-up term to evoke an emotional response through the media and the public. Also, contrary to leftists’ myth, the label “AR” has to do with the first model introduced by the company as Armalite Rifle several years ago. Doing a search on the words “assault weapon” will not bring you to a manufacture of modern-day sporting rifles.

Second, none of the features listed in this bill make a firearm more dangerous. The features listed in the bill make many sporting and self-protection firearms illegal. Good examples of mislabeled features are the threaded barrel and magazine outside of the grip. Restricting these feature restrictions would make a collectible relic like “Broom Handled” Mauser from before the WWII illegal. It would also make high-end .22 caliber target pistols like a Walther GSP illegal. GSP pistols (also available in .32 caliber) start at over \$2,500 and are not the likely choice of street criminals. Pardini target pistols is another example of a high-end target pistol that would be made illegal by this bill. A threaded barrel has no impact on the firearm, other than allowing for the attachment of compensators, flash hidere, etc. which only aid the user of the firearm. Flash hidere do not hide the flash from others, but they do direct the flash outward so that a user is not blinded. Pistol grips provide control, which is a positive feature when considering you want added control of a firearm. Handguards provide safer handling to the user and in many cases allow the user to add sights and grips for added accuracy, control

and safety. Outlawing a semi-automatic rifle with a bayonet lug will outlaw an M1 “Garand” rifle, which is a piece of history that is collected and mostly used in shooting competitions today.

There was a 10-year ban on so-called “assault weapons” at the federal level and it was dropped because it was proven to be ineffective. Above all, the ban on certain firearms because they are deemed “weapons of war” or “inappropriate” has already been ruled as being contrary to the spirit and intent of the Constitution by the courts, so this type of bill/law will most certainly be challenged.

I’m also curious to know that if the sale, transfer, or possession of a so-called “assault weapon” is so bad, how would the registration of a so-called “assault weapon” make these firearms safer or save lives?

In June of 2021, a federal judge overturned California’s three-decade ban on assault weapons on Friday, arguing that it violates the Second Amendment’s right to bear arms. California prohibited the sale of assault weapons in 1989. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez of San Diego described the 30-year ban as a “failed experiment” and compared an AR-15 to a Swiss Army knife.

**This bill is a solution, looking for a problem that does not exist.**

Here are statistics on long-gun deaths over the last several years.

In **Rhode Island**, according to figures<sup>13</sup> from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), annual **long gun homicides total**

2019: 0  
2018: 2  
2017: 0  
2016: 0  
2015: 1  
2014: 1  
2013: 1  
2012: 0  
2011: 0  
2010: 2  
2009: 0  
2008: 0  
2007: 0  
2006: 0  
2005: 1  
2004: 1  
2003: 0  
2002: 4  
2001: 1  
1996: 2  
1995: 1

Here are the numbers for 2019 compared to other states. Note that murder by Rifles and Shotguns are **zero**:

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-20>

**House Bill No. 7217**

(Governor)

**BY Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Dawson, Speakman, Craven, Batista, Felix, McEntee, Ajello**

**ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULT WEAPONS**

{LC3374/1} (Bans the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons. Possession of assault weapons owned on the effective date of this act to be "grandfathered". Violations are punishable by a fine or imprisonment.)  
01/18/2024 Introduced, referred to House Judiciary  
03/01/2024 Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

**Thank you,  
Michael Luciano  
26 Turner Ave  
Cranston, RI 02920**