

R.I. population (2020), 1,097,379 has a crime rate of 30.04 per 1,000 residents (cimegrade.org). The number of violent crimes reported were 2.358% per 1,000, property crimes, 18.32% and other crimes at 9.36%. This includes crimes of kidnapping, drug related, vandalism, identity theft, and animal cruelty.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) reports estimates that defensive gun use in the U.S. was between 60,000 and 2.5 million times a year. This estimate is much understated according to other sources. CDCP under pressure in 2021, from gun control advocates under reported the numbers. According to American Gun Facts, guns were used to thwart crime between 500,000 and 2.8 million times per year.

Back in 2013, the CDCP ordered a study conducted by the National Academies Institute of Medicine and National Research Council. It reported that defensive use by crime victims is a common occurrence taking place between 500,000 and 3 million times each year.

How many Rhode Islanders will become victims of such crimes, when they can no longer protect themselves or their families because an "assault weapons ban" would, in effect, stop them from legally purchasing semi-auto firearms of any kind. How many lives will be lost to defenseless law-abiding people.

When was there ever a school shooting in R.I.?
Except for the gang bangers, when did a mass shooting occur in R.I.?

For the above reasons I oppose the passage of House Bill No. 7217
Assault Weapons Ban.

Robert Peterson
287 Hoxsie Ave
Warwick R.I. 02889