

Roberta DiMezza

From: Ron Hawkins <bird68rh@verizon.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 4:36 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. Shekarchi, K Joseph
Subject: House Bill No. 7217 Assault Weapons {LC3374/1}

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House Committee on Judiciary
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

March 10, 2024

Re: Testimony in Opposition to House bill No. 7217 titled: Assault Weapons LC3374/1
Dear Chairperson Craven and members of the Judiciary Committee

I am Ronald Hawkins from the city of Warwick, RI District 21 and I oppose I oppose House bill No. 7217 titled: Assault Weapons LC3374/1 because it is unconstitutional.

This law only punishes the law-abiding citizen by limiting self-defense options and eliminating the use of a critical tool in a last resort life and death struggle. To pass a restrictive law affecting all citizens for such a small number of incidents and fatalities using ANY rifle makes society more UNSAFE than safe. The statistics for incidents involving fatalities or injuries from crime using rifles of any kind in Rhode Island are incredibly rare and very low percentage in 2022. 2023 statistics are not available yet. In fact, Rhode Island violent crime rates overall are well below national averages. Compliments to our law enforcement professionals.

Genuine concern for public safety should focus squarely on crime, gang related crime, repeat offenders, increasing violent crime penalties and improving rehabilitation.

Additionally, it is against Rhode Island law and unconstitutional in the United States to create lists of gun owner lists.

I urge you to vote against House bill No. 7217 titled: Assault Weapons LC3374/1.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak against House bill No. 7217 titled: Assault Weapons LC3374/1. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Ronald Hawkins
47 Bowman Drive
Warwick, RI 02889
bird68rh@verizon.net

House District 21
Senate District 29