

Roberta DiMezza

From: Schultz, Caleb <caleb_schultz@brown.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 3, 2025 8:34 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: 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; Rep. Boylan, Jennifer
Subject: Testimony in Support: H 5130 NIBIN
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Caleb Schultz, and I am a student at Brown University. I am writing to urge you to support a common-sense gun safety bill 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've grown up in Rhode Island for the past 18 years. As a child, I thought this state was a safe place to live because the laws and the people that carried them out knew how to track and handle violent crime. However, as I learned more about the horrifying amount of gun violence in Rhode Island and across the nation, I realized that our state lacked tools to effectively track and prevent these crimes.

I started advocating for better laws to prevent gun violence when I was 13 years old. I've testified at bill hearings, led rallies, and started two student groups devoted to ending gun violence- one at my high school and one at Brown University. I believe law enforcement should have all the tools available to fight against firearm crime. Hearing about the gun tracing abilities of NIBIN, I strongly believe this technology should be implemented and standardized in Rhode Island to keep the people of our state and the surrounding regions safer from gun violence.

Specifically, I urge you to prioritize support for:

- H 5130 (Boylan), which defines "crime guns" and requires law enforcement to submit crime guns or 2 fired cartridge cases or shell casings seized to a state crime laboratory or the BATF for testing and tracing. It would also require 2 test-fired cartridge cases to be entered into NIBIN.

This bill will allow law enforcement to have life-saving information on tracing firearms. Having a larger database of traced firearms increases law enforcement's ability to detect repeat offenders and aims to strengthen the existing background check system for gun purchases, because it seeks to close loopholes, prevent dangerous individuals (like felons or those with restraining orders) from buying firearms, and improve public safety.

Please pass this bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Caleb Schultz