

Tuesday, February 4th, 2025

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Caleen Goldstein, and I am a first-year 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.

In my first semester here at Brown, I immediately became involved with the group Students Demand Action. As an activist in this group, I believe that this bill is a necessary step towards our mission of ending gun violence. Despite our school being in the heart of Providence, it seems that students at Brown may be mentally isolated from the gun violence that occurs throughout Rhode Island. Being an active member of Students Demand Action is my way of holding myself accountable to be civically engaged and aware, and to not live in ignorant bliss when there are very real changes that need to be made. This bill can directly contribute to making these changes that will increase safety for all.

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,

Caleen Goldstein
Brown University Class of 2028