

TO: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Jonah Toka Roberti
RE: Support: H 5130 NIBIN

DATE: 2/4/25

Sent via email to HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Jonah Toka Roberti, 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.

Gun violence is too common of an occurrence to ignore, especially for young people like my peers and myself. Guns are one of the leading causes of death for youth, and the magnitude of the harm that shootings cause cannot be measured with only numbers. Many instances of gun violence can be prevented, and H 5130 would reduce these tragedies by tracing firearms used in crimes.

I was 12 when I first walked out of school to demand action against gun violence. Now, nearly 7 years later, our laws are still failing to adequately deal with the threat that shootings pose. H 5130 will bring Rhode Island one step closer to addressing this shortcoming. Because of this, I ask you to support H 5130 for the sake of my family, friends, neighbors, classmates, community members, and the over one million others who live in Rhode Island.

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,

Jonah