

Ariana Costa

From: Aaron Laramie <aaronlaramie@yahoo.com>
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Subject: Proposed "Assault Weapon" Ban Testimony.

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I DO NOT ENDORSE THE DISARMING OF LAW-ABIDING RHODE ISLAND CITIZENS BY THE STROKE OF A PEN!

“Rhode Island is one of the safest states in the country”. Actual quote from Governor McKee. So why is he trying to pass an "assault weapon" ban and make it impossible to purchase tons of firearms by lawful Rhode Island citizens in the name of “**SAFETY**”. This “**BAN**” isn’t about our safety. And this bill is **FAR** from simply an “assault weapon” ban. It is a far-reaching ban on almost all semi-auto rifles and handguns which is **100% UNCONSTITUTIONAL!** I am a Rhode Island citizen and do **NOT** want my right to purchase and/or bear arms to be denied simply by someone’s arbitrary, biased opinion on “safety” and a signature on a piece of paper. And **I will NOT register ANY of my firearms!**

I do not support people or legislators who do not understand firearms and how they function, yet want to abolish them simply because they are afraid of them, or want to follow a “woke” agenda.

___ There is an actual reason for the **SECOND AMMENDMENT!!** It's not about hunting...It's about American citizens being able to protect themselves from a tyrannical government. Plain and simple. Denying that right can't be simply signed away!

There are cities in the US that have high gun violence stats simply due to gang violence, **BUT** the national TV ‘Talking Heads’ simply don't mention that fact as part of their assessment on gun violence to the masses. So, most of the population aren’t aware of the actual statistics that the US is actually a very safe place! <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/feb/27/instagram-posts/is-the-us-third-in-gun-violence-because-of-five-ci/>

“Removing gun-related homicides in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and St. Louis would drop the U.S. to 189th out of 193 countries in gun violence.”

Moms Demand Action will cite the number of “Mass Shootings” in the US and how there is a "gun-problem" in the US. The phrase "mass shooting" itself conjures horrific images of a person shooting dozens of people at once in a crazed rampage. However, according to the **FBI** the definition of a “Mass Shooting” is... “ as defined by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (**FBI**), an event in which one or more individuals are “actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. Implicit in this definition is the shooter’s use of a firearm.” **The FBI has not set a minimum number of casualties to qualify an event as a mass shooting, but U.S. statute (the Investigative**

Assistance for Violent Crimes Act of 2012) defines a “mass killing” as “3 or more killings in a single incident.” For the purposes of this article, both sets of criteria will be applied to the term mass shooting, with the distinction that the shooter or shooters are not included in any fatality statistics.”

So, the FBI hasn't even concretely determined what a “Mass Shooting” actually is. It took a "Statute" passed by legislators to "define" what this phrase means. If we can't even rely on what the **FBI** determines to be a “mass shooting” event, then how can any state presume to pass legislation based on governmental statistics that they suppose to substantiate their gun-safety position???

Look how many gang/drug-related shootings there are on a daily basis? These shootings bump up the numbers of gun-related deaths, but this type of violence doesn't accurately represent the gun-owning community at all. How many times has one lunatic shot up a bar or a crowd for no reason at Any-Place USA? And the media eats it up, jumping on the opportunity to put this random act of violence in everyone's face and drumming up fear that guns are public enemy number one. This is pushed all over the media as a “Mass Shooting”. Sounds scary, doesn't it? It's supposed to! That's how “woke/progressive” groups get the un-knowing/un-thinking anti-gun public behind them. They want you to believe that every time you go out in public there's an incredible risk of being shot by these “Pro-Gunner”, “2nd Amendment” lunatics.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving organization tries to save lives by trying to stop people from “**DRUNK DRIVING**”, and getting behind the wheel of a car after drinking and thus avoiding the possibility of a death by crash. **MADD** seeks to change the **behavior** of drivers who are **ultimately responsible for their actions in court after a crash**. They want to change the behavior of people who drink and drive...and drivers who are criminal are charged appropriately. Why don't they want to ban the alcohol they drank or the car they drove in these instances? Why aren't the authorities going after these entities? Because in these cases they see it ultimately as the **responsibility of the driver** who shouldn't have consumed so much alcohol and who shouldn't have gotten behind the wheel of the vehicle in the first place.

Why is this any different than **CONSTITUTIONALLY PROTECTED FIREARMS???**
Don't blame the weapon! Blame the shooter!!