

Roberta DiMezza

From: Austin LeDoux <aledoux33@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 4:46 PM
To: SLegislation; House Judiciary Committee; ag@riag.ri.gov; governor@governor.ri.gov; Rep_Chippendale; Sen. de la Cruz, Jessica
Subject: Pending Assault Weapons Ban

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Good afternoon to you all,

My name is Austin LeDoux, I'm 28 years old and a homeowner in Glocester. My wife and I live in a little house with our dog and 2 cats on 9 acres where we raise chickens and tend our garden. For the past 10 years I've worked in public safety, as both a volunteer and professional firefighter. I've devoted my life to this service and take great pride in what I do. I am a proud American, and I will forever be grateful to this country for allowing me to live the life that I lead and love.

I am also a gun owner, and I believe in the 2nd Amendment. However, I assure you that I am not a threat. I'm writing today to express my discontent with the pending "assault weapon" ban that would affect all, and only, law abiding Rhode Island citizens.

I'm not a part of any special interest group, nor do I donate to any special interest groups, I am simply a constituent. As a constituent, I'm sincerely hoping that my voice is heard and considered.

I do inherently disagree with this bill in its entirety, first and foremost I believe that the term "assault weapons" is used solely by politicians who either know nothing of or are too afraid to know anything of firearms. An accessory on a firearm, such as a pistol grip, a way to keep your hands from burning, or an adjustable position stock does not make any firearm more dangerous.

I also believe that overreaching gun control laws accomplish nothing aside from harming law abiding citizens who become limited in their preparedness in a world where criminals are becoming more and more advanced and dangerous. Criminals are responsible for almost 100% of all crime, and a change in law will never change the mindset of a criminal with an intent to break the law.

The statistics do not support that stricter gun control works. We've all heard the reports from around the country and around the world of people with criminal intent using whatever is available to carry out their agenda, whether that be

knives, acid, vehicles, whatever is available. A sweeping ban like this wouldn't remove the crime, and I believe deep down we all know that.

I believe in the Constitution. I believe that a system should not be torn down before it's understood why it was built that way in the first place. Most of all, I believe that the Constitution and the beliefs of those who wrote it made our country what it is today. It's why we're all able to live our lives in safety and comfort. I believe that allowing the comfort that we're now able to enjoy to cloud our judgement and make us believe that what made us strong no longer applies would be incredibly regretful.

At the end of the day, this is a breach of the rights given to Americans in the Constitution, something I'm sure we all hold dear. It's also outside the realm of common sense. Criminals continue to find new ways to break the law. Innocent, perfectly law abiding people are made victim to violent crime every day. All that this legislation will do is make your average law abiding citizen even more susceptible to attack from a more prepared criminal who never had any intention of following the law to begin with. Any person with criminal intent will now know that their intended target will forever have a disadvantage.

I understand that most of you don't share my way of thinking on this, and I suppose that that's the beauty of democracy. All of our voices are heard, we all play a part in the future of our nation. If you've gotten this far, I truly appreciate your time and attention.

I implore all of you or your colleagues to reconsider, I truly don't believe that this will have the results that you expect from it. This will simply put you or your colleagues names forever set in the fight to take American rights, and I truly believe that it would be for nothing.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Austin LeDoux

Chepachet, RI

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