



DATE: March 26, 2025

TO: The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Chair
Members, House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Carol Costa, Executive Director
Senior Agenda Coalition of RI

RE: Support for H5436

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) strongly supports H5436, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- RHODE ISLAND ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN ACT OF 2025 introduced on behalf of Governor McKee by Representatives Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Speakman, McEntee, Ajello, Kazarian, Craven, Dawson and Felix.

The Senior Agenda Coalition of RI (SACRI) strongly supports H5436 which prohibits any person from manufacturing, selling, offering to sell, transferring, purchasing, possessing, or having under their control an assault weapon including certain semi-automatic shotguns, rifles, and pistols. Certain exemptions to the ban include for law enforcement agencies, federally licensed firearm dealers, and individuals who lawfully possess an assault weapon on the effective date of the ban. Any person convicted of violating the law would be punished by imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years, or by a fine up to ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), and the assault weapon shall be subject to forfeiture.

Gun violence is a critical public health issue and SACRI commends the state legislature for passing the 2024 Safe Storage law. We believe there is no good reason why assault weapons should be in our communities and for our people to fear gun violence taking place in our schools, in our places of worship, in our public spaces, and in our homes. Without a federal ban on assault weapons, it is time for Rhode Island to join with the ten other states to ban the type of weapons that turn killers into killing machines.

We urge you to recommend passage of S359 and thank you for your consideration.