

House Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Chris Barker. As a resident of Warwick, RI I am writing this testimony in opposition of the bills below. In most cases for these bills, I have copied and pasted a prior response to the same tired, feel good, appease the donors to my re-election campaign and or the P.A.C. that lobbies me the most. The gun itself is an inanimate object and the deadly intent and outcome is always driven by the wielder. Punitive action against law-abiding citizens is not and never will be the answer to this issue. These new gun control schemes will only harass law-abiding citizens. They will not improve public safety because criminals, by definition, do not obey the law.

HB 5069 - Limits acceptable reasons for a person to request/apply for a concealed carry license. R.I.G.L. § 11-47-11 allows Rhode Islanders to apply for a concealed carry permit from local licensing authorities and provides that these municipal licensing authorities “shall issue” a permit to qualified, suitable applicants who are at least 21 years old.

HB 5130 - and its companion bill, **SB 59** - Would require all "crime guns" to be submitted to the ATF for testing and tracing. This law on its face is too vague, as is the verbiage “identified by law enforcement as suspected of having been used in a criminal offense.” This implies both the lack of due process and concerns of 4th amendment violations.

H5436 (page 6, lines 28-34) mandates a gun owner registry, which is explicitly prohibited under Rhode Island law (Title 11, Chapter 11-47, Section 11-47-41). This statute forbids any government agency from maintaining a list of privately owned firearms or their owners.

HB 5436 - An "assault weapons" ban to prohibit the future possession, purchase, sale, control, and manufacture of commonly owned firearms. This bill is an egregious legislative overreach which directly contradicts **"In common use for lawful purpose"**

Upon the death of an "assault weapon" owner the heirs could be subject to Inverse condemnation based on the legally available remedies of which none offer just compensation for an inherited "assault weapon".

The bill's feature-based restrictions lack any basis in reducing firearm lethality and instead rely on fear-driven misconceptions and gun control propaganda.

Weight Restrictions (>50 oz): This targets pistol variants of rifles but also bans many common revolvers and semi-automatic handguns designed to mitigate recoil.

Threaded Barrels: Nearly all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns feature threading on barrels, making this a ban on most firearms.

Shrouds: Defined (page 2, lines 22-24) These are generally a safety feature to prevent the user from touching the barrel of the gun as it may be hot.

Magazine Placement & Buffer Tubes: Most semi-automatic and many bolt-action rifles accept magazines outside the pistol grip. Buffer tubes, critical to AR-15 function, are also targeted, alongside stocks or braces on countless other firearms.

Criminalizing Possession of Parts: Page 2, lines 33-34, make it illegal to possess parts that could assemble an “assault weapon,” even if unmounted. This vague provision turns ordinary Rhode Islanders into felons for owning components **“In common use for lawful purpose”**, with no public safety benefit.

This contradicts claims that only specific firearms are affected. These bills infringe on constitutional rights and disproportionately harm and harass law-abiding citizens.

The supreme court has on multiple occasions used the term “In common use for lawful purpose” to distinguish arms protected by the 2nd amendment.

In closing I ask that you as legislators follow your oaths of office by respecting the rule of law, the constitutions of Rhode Island and our great republic and not allow these travesties to be passed into law.

Criminals by definition - DO NOT FOLLOW THE LAW

Christopher Barker

Lifelong Rhode Island resident