

Roberta DiMezza

From: Daisy Bassen <dgbassen@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:39 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; admin@ricagv.org
Subject: support H5436

Daisy Bassen
20 Devon Ct.
East Greenwich, RI 02818

March 24, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H5436

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Daisy Bassen, MD and I live in East Greenwich. My representative is Representative Justine Caldwell.

I'm writing in support of Representative Knight's assault weapons regulation bill, H5436. This bill will reduce the number of deadly, military-style firearms in our communities and it will keep us safer. As a board certified child, adolescent and adult psychiatrist practicing in community mental health care in RI and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, I am deeply aware of the risk assault weapons and the prospect of mass shootings, especially school shootings, pose to our children. As the parent of two students attending public school in East Greenwich and one student attending Brown University, I know the anxiety associated with scheduled lockdown drills and the desperate fear any parent feels when there is a report of a shooting in our state.

A recent Children's Defense Fund's Parent and Child Trends Survey by YouGov found fear of a school shooting the second most common worry for children between 6 and 17 years old and their parents. One-third of children surveyed said they are worried about a shooting happening at their school. I regularly treat children and teens who avoid going to school or stop going altogether because of their terrible fear of dying in their school, a place they should be safe.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation. Rhode Islanders deserve to live free from gun violence, and getting these weapons of war off our streets and our schools is an important and long overdue step. It is time to vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Sincerely,
Daisy Bassen, MD DFAACAP