

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Dan Kesler <keslerdan982@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2025 12:31 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on 2A bills to be heard Wed March 26th

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello Chairman Craven and House Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Dan K Kesler. I am a resident of Smithfield Rhode Island. Please record my leanings on legislation to be heard March 26th as the following:

I OPPOSE: HB5436, HB5443, HB5651, HB5652, HB5654, HB5889, HB5890, HB5891, HB5933, HB5934, HB6042

I SUPPORT: HB5653, HB5935, HB5936

Please take into consideration the following information during your deliberations regarding these pieces of legislation.

Rhode Island does not have a firearms crime problem. Rhode Island has a problem with criminals regardless of the instruments they chose to employ in the commission of their crimes.

According to a study conducted by The National Police Association: The average national response time to an emergency 911 call is 10 minutes. The study noted the average duration of an active school shooter event is 12.5 minutes. The police response times to these active school shootings averaged 18 minutes. Please take some time to reflect on these numbers.

In a recent study conducted by the Crime Prevention Research Center of active shooter events from 2014 to 2023 the study concluded CCW permit holders stopped 51.5% of active shooting events compared to 44.6% stopped by police.

According to a study across 10 years of FBI crime data it was determined that violent encounters on average happen very quickly and have a duration of 3 to 5 minutes. The undeniable fact that stands out is that in almost all cases, the police are not present in time to prevent or stop most violent crimes. However, what if they were?

Warren v. District of Columbia, 1981 and Castle Rock v. Gonzales, 2005. In both cases SCOTUS held that police officers have 'NO LEGAL DUTY' to protect citizens. Even if they do manage to arrive while a crime is in progress; In court, in the eyes of the law, it is not the police officers' job to provide protection to citizens. We only need to look at the wisdom of our nation's founders to fully understand how our highest court could come to this decision not once, but twice in two very different cases.

Our founding fathers understood that as individuals we are born with the right to protect ourselves and that it is the sole duty of each individual to be responsible for their own protection. This was so well understood that it was enshrined

into this nation's Bill of Rights as our Second Amendment. Our government and the body and chambers in which you currently sit were instituted to enshrine and protect this right. A right that was not granted by governments and for which governments were created to protect may not be taken by governments.

The legislation before this body currently will do nothing to address the very real issue of crime in our state. Rhode Island is and I suspect has been by far the safest state in our nation for many years relative to crimes committed with firearms. I have submitted for two years a very detailed analysis of our attorney general's reported gun crimes. It is abundantly clear that the numbers have been over inflated and laden with statistics from previous years. This has caused all analysis for our state by all organizations to be skewed to support political agendas.

I will end with this: A feature ban on commonly owned firearms proposed as an effort to prevent tragedies that may happen will not prevent any crime from occurring simply because it does nothing to address the causes of crime. It is analogous to conducting a study of what type of vehicle is most involved in DUI deaths then banning the sale of that type of car as an effort to curb drunk driving.

This so-called Assault Weapon Ban will create at least 100,000 or more instant felons in our state. This group of people are among the most responsible and law-abiding segment of our communities. I hope with all sincerity that as you deliberate this very politically charged issue that you keep in mind unforeseen consequences. I personally am neither inclined nor intent on committing any crimes. However, the segment of the population that will be made into criminal felons by this legislation; they are also the segment of the population that are best equipped to be the most efficient and effective felons this state has ever imagined.

I do not personally envy you in the task before you. I hope that you will do what is just and correct in the eyes of our nation's traditions and heritage and what your oaths of office command that you do and vote NO on these pieces of legislation.

Most Respectfully and Sincerely,

Dan K Kesler

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