

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Rhode Island House Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and our Rhode Island members, I am writing to express our opposition to the gun control bills posted in the House Judiciary Committee today. Specifically, we are opposed to H.5436, the semi-auto ban. This legislation would ban one of the most popular firearms in the country.

There is no public safety interest for such a sweeping ban in Rhode Island as this firearm's use in crime is exceedingly rare (and possibly even non-existent in Rhode Island). Such bans are wholly ineffective. A federal "assault weapon" ban was in place from 1994-2004. After that ban was allowed to expire, the Clinton Department of Justice did a study that concluded that the ban had no meaningful impact on crime. Follow-up studies concluded the same. A 2004 Department of Justice-funded study stated that "the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement." The federal ban was not renewed. Only a small minority of states adopted such bans, and virtually every one of them has been challenged in court as unconstitutional.

In *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against means testing in Second Amendment cases and established a standard of review which includes whether there existed historical analogs for such regulations dating back to the founding. Cases challenging state magazine and semi-auto bans were remanded back to the lower courts for review. This ban is certain to be challenged as unconstitutional.

In addition to H.5436, we oppose: H.5443, H.5651, H.5652, H.5654, H.5889, H.5890.

I respectfully ask that you vote NO on these bills. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dgoens@nrahq.org, or 703-267-1223. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Goens".

Darin Goens
State Director, NRA-ILA