

OPPOSE H5436, H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, H5891

House Judiciary Committee Chair and Committee members,

My name is David Olivelli and as a registered voter, RI resident and tax payer, I oppose the bills listed above but H5436 is unequivocally the most egregious. This bill will ban some of the most commonly owned semi automatic firearms that are used for self defense and sport. These firearms have never been used by the military and are not “Weapons of War” as all only fire one shot for each trigger pull. Stating that some firearms are more dangerous than others because they have a barrel shroud, flash suppressor, or adjustable stock (the list goes on) is completely inaccurate, a false statement. Anyone who knows anything about firearms would know that most of the features described in this bill are cosmetic and do not make a firearm more dangerous. It’s a “feel good” bill that bans features that “look scary” to folks who know nothing about how firearms work.

This bill is dangerous because it prevents the public from having the same tools as law enforcement to stop a threat, the threat that law abiding citizens face before the police arrive. If these firearms are essential for law enforcement to effectively combat criminals after a crime is committed, they are even more important to the victim to combat criminals as the police are typically at least 7 minutes away. Passing this bill tells the registered voters of RI that we’ve elected politicians who value the lives of law enforcement more than their constituents. Disarming good people does not make bad people good.

Please do NOT support H5436!

Respectfully,

David Olivelli