

Testimony of Don Haining, Lincoln RI

Opposing House Bill 5436

Assault weapons ban

Thank you, members of the committee, for hearing our testimonies

I am here to give testimony on the, economic, definition, health/emotional, and legal side of an assault weapons ban.

I would like to address these topics

Economic

- Federal aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, Robertson Pittman Act.
 - Charge 11% tax on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. To support wild life projects.
 - For the FY 2023 RI received \$7,176,940.
 - If the Governors bill passes over 130 businesses would be in jeopardy
 - Loss of Revenue to name a few such as employment tax, sales tax, & property tax
 - In 2018 DEM records show that \$11,668,415 were spent on conservation programs in RI.
 - All or most funded by the Firearms community.

Definition of a "Assault Rifle "

The U.S. Army defines *assault rifles* as "short, compact, selective-fire weapons that fire a cartridge intermediate in power between submachine gun and rifle cartridges." In this strict definition, a firearm must have at least the following characteristics to be considered an assault rifle:

- It must be capable of selective fire. (single shot, semi-automatic, full automatic, and burst)
- It must have an intermediate-power cartridge: more power than a pistol but less than a standard rifle or battle rifle; examples of intermediate cartridges are the 7.92×33mm Kurz, the 7.62×39mm and 5.56×45mm NATO.
- Its ammunition must be supplied from a detachable box magazine.^[9]
- It must have an effective range of at least 300 meters (330 yards).

Rifles that meet most of these criteria, but not all, are not *assault rifles* according to the U.S. Army's definition. For example:

- Select-fire rifles such as the FN FAL, M14, and H&K G3 main battle rifles are not assault rifles; they fire full-powered rifle cartridges.

- Semi-automatic-only rifles like the Colt AR-15 are not assault rifles; they do not have select-fire capabilities. They are not capable of automatic fire.
- True Assault rifles are not available to the general public.
- If I paint racing stripes, place numbers on the door, put sponsor stickers on my Prius do I have a race car?? I would be laughed out of a NASCAR track. They are only cosmetic and will not help in a race. Just like the cosmetic features in the proposed bill, they do not make it an assault rifle.

Emotional

We all want a safe community and the loss of life is always a tragic experience.

When I was a working automotive technician and an automotive instructor I used a diagnostic strategy.

- Symptom
- Cause
- Cure

Symptom. Illegal use of firearms, murder, suicide.

Cause. There are many causes, the most tragic is suicide.

Major causes of suicide include:

- Mental health problems
- Bullying, prejudice or stigma, such as relating to your race, gender, disability or sexual identity
- Different types of abuse, including domestic, sexual or physical abuse
- Bereavement, including losing a loved one to suicide
- The end of a relationship
- Long-term physical pain or illness
- Adjusting to a big change, such as retirement or redundancy
- Money problems
- Housing problems, including homelessness
- Isolation or loneliness
- Being in prison
- Feeling inadequate or a failure
- Addiction or substance abuse
- Pregnancy, childbirth or postnatal depression
- Doubts about your sexual or gender identity
- Cultural pressure, such as forced marriage
- Society's expectations, for example to act a certain way or achieve certain things
- **Not the law-abiding firearm owner**

Cure/common sense

I can only speculate on the cure, but it seems to me that common sense dictates that an inanimate object is not the cause. In the history of the world a fire arm has never killed or harmed anyone. Just like a spoon has never caused obesity or a pencil misspelled a word or the wrong answer on a math quiz. It happens only when a person picks it up.

No person of sound mind would think that taking their own life or someone else's life is acceptable.

The problem lies with the human being. We cannot blame an object for the evil that lies with-in man-kind.

Mental illness.

We have all listened to commercials on TV for various conditions. Some of these medications have side-effects. Many will list suicidal thoughts or actions. Should we address this factor into cure?? (see following pages)

Legal

According to RI constitution it is not required to register a firearm and according to Gov. McKee's "Assault rifle" bill a \$25 registration fee would be imposed along finger printing (page 5, line 34) along with registering the fire arm. Since when do I need to pay fee for a constitutional right?? Do I need to pay a fee to vote?? A Poll tax?? Address my legislators?? NO!!!! (See page 6 line 2 and 3 of the bill)

No law passed will stop a criminal from committing a crime. Criminals by definition do not follow the law.

I have heard these bills are called "firearms safety bills" where are the safety aspects of them? They are more fire arm restriction bills. I have looked on the Moms Demand Action web site and I see nothing about teaching fire arms safety. If I follow their model, water safety would be to close all the beaches and pools so no one would drown.

If I were to teach water safety, I would start by teaching people how to swim, instruct them to only swim where a life guard is present, and never swim alone. I would not close the beaches or pools.

The NRA has a program called "Eddie the Eagle" that teaches firearm safety to children. Many gun clubs sponsor safety classes. The state sponsors a safe hunting course. I have yet to see if any one has proposed the use of those resources.

As a retired teacher, I have written many lesson plans in which I needed to list an objective and how I plan to reach that objective. I have questioned local senators and representatives. Is an objective required as part of the bill? They all said no. So how do we grade the outcome of the bill?

Bit by bit the legislature is removing the rights of the law-abiding firearm owner. As I once heard one representative state. "It's a good first step."

I am urging members of the committee to reject this bill and support bills that do not infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

Thank you,

Don Haining, Lincoln RI

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON
WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

	TOTAL WILDLIFE FUNDS-5220	TOTAL BASIC HUNTER ED	TOTAL ENHANCED FUNDS	TOTAL - ALL WILDLIFE FUNDS (FY23)
STATE	CFDA: 15.611	CFDA: 15.611	5230 CFDA: 15.626	
ALABAMA	\$22,202,545.00	\$5,134,602.00	\$179,553.00	\$27,516,700
ALASKA	\$48,092,228.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$50,459,945
AMERICAN SAMOA	\$1,603,074.00	\$381,286.00	\$13,333.00	\$1,997,693
ARIZONA	\$27,054,014.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$34,157,164
ARKANSAS	\$17,250,399.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$19,618,116
CALIFORNIA	\$31,754,871.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$38,858,021
COLORADO	\$26,205,032.00	\$5,900,599.00	\$206,340.00	\$32,311,971
CONNECTICUT	\$4,809,223.00	\$3,685,018.00	\$128,863.00	\$8,623,104
DELAWARE	\$4,809,223.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,176,940
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0
FLORIDA	\$14,992,384.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$22,095,534
GEORGIA	\$30,750,209.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$37,853,359
GUAM	\$1,603,074.00	\$381,286.00	\$13,333.00	\$1,997,693
HAWAII	\$4,809,223.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,176,940
IDAHO	\$21,141,026.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$23,508,743
ILLINOIS	\$16,719,799.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$23,822,949
INDIANA	\$13,201,178.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$20,304,328
IOWA	\$14,733,464.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$17,101,181
KANSAS	\$19,645,094.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$22,012,811
KENTUCKY	\$15,214,330.00	\$4,604,677.00	\$161,023.00	\$19,980,030
LOUISIANA	\$19,799,002.00	\$4,759,935.00	\$166,452.00	\$24,725,389
MAINE	\$10,894,145.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,261,862
MARYLAND	\$4,892,733.00	\$6,312,919.00	\$220,759.00	\$11,426,411
MASSACHUSETTS	\$4,809,223.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$11,912,373
MICHIGAN	\$27,590,564.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$34,693,714
MINNESOTA	\$28,381,638.00	\$5,831,603.00	\$203,928.00	\$34,417,169
MISSISSIPPI	\$15,247,838.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$17,615,555
MISSOURI	\$24,961,392.00	\$6,289,962.00	\$219,956.00	\$31,471,310
MONTANA	\$28,702,800.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$31,070,517
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	\$1,603,074.00	\$381,286.00	\$13,333.00	\$1,997,693
NEBRASKA	\$16,904,150.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$19,271,867
NEVADA	\$19,667,899.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$22,035,616
NEW HAMPSHIRE	\$4,809,223.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,176,940
NEW JERSEY	\$4,809,223.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$11,912,373
NEW MEXICO	\$22,298,070.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$24,665,787
NEW YORK	\$23,428,714.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$30,531,864
NORTH CAROLINA	\$26,538,893.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$33,642,043
NORTH DAKOTA	\$14,912,000.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$17,279,717
OHIO	\$16,462,168.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$23,565,318
OKLAHOMA	\$24,735,932.00	\$4,046,271.00	\$141,496.00	\$28,923,699
OREGON	\$24,031,729.00	\$4,330,261.00	\$151,427.00	\$28,513,417
PENNSYLVANIA	\$33,964,242.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$41,067,392
PUERTO RICO	\$4,809,223.00	\$381,286.00	\$13,333.00	\$5,203,842
RHODE ISLAND	\$4,809,223.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,176,940
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$10,914,836.00	\$5,230,839.00	\$182,919.00	\$16,328,594
SOUTH DAKOTA	\$17,479,766.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$19,847,483
TENNESSEE	\$27,081,159.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$34,184,309
TEXAS	\$48,092,228.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$55,195,378
UTAH	\$20,399,024.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$22,766,741
VERMONT	\$4,809,223.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$7,176,940
VIRGIN ISLANDS	\$1,603,074.00	\$381,286.00	\$13,333.00	\$1,997,693
VIRGINIA	\$13,371,079.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$20,474,229
WASHINGTON	\$15,512,386.00	\$6,863,150.00	\$240,000.00	\$22,615,536
WEST VIRGINIA	\$10,809,778.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$13,177,495
WISCONSIN	\$27,517,772.00	\$6,022,955.00	\$210,619.00	\$33,751,346
WYOMING	\$18,600,747.00	\$2,287,717.00	\$80,000.00	\$20,968,464
TOTAL	\$961,844,560	\$228,771,678	\$8,000,000	\$1,198,616,238

A List of Medications That Have Been Linked to Suicidal Thoughts of Behavior

The following are some of the brand names of drugs that have been linked to suicidal thoughts or behavior:

- Accutane (isotretinoin) Acne medication
- Banzel (Rufinamide) control **seizures**
- Carbatrol, Equetro, Tegretol, Tegretol XR (carbamazepine) **epilepsy, nerve pain and bipolar disorder**
- Celontin (methosuximide) **Anticonvulsants**
- Chantix (varenicline) quit smoking
- Darvon and Darvocet (propoxyphene) **opioid pain reliever**
- Depakote, Depakote ER, Depakene (divalproex sodium) **anticonvulsant**
- Depakene, Stavzor Extended Release Tablets (valproic acid)
- Dilantin Suspension (phenytoin)
- Felbatol (felbamate)
- Gabitril (tiagabine)
- Keppra (levetiracetam)
- Klonopin (clonazepam)
- Lamictal (lamotrigine)
- Mesantoin (mephenytoin)
- Mysoline (primidone)
- Neurontin (gabapentin)
- Paxil (paroxetine)
- Peganone (ethotoin)
- Prozac (fluoxetine)
- Topamax (topiramate)
- Tranxene (clorazepate)
- Tridione (trimethadione)
- Trileptal (oxcarbazepine)
- Vimpat (lacosamide)
- Zarontin (ethosuximide)
- Zonegran (zonisamide)

Drugs associated with mass shootings and suicide.

Please see link below

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asaferconnecticut/tmy/0128/Matt%20Powell%20-%20Manchester%20CT.pdf>

Elizabeth Bush, age 13, (Paxil) was responsible for a school shooting in Pennsylvania Jason Hoffman (Effexor and Celexa) – school shooting in El Cajon, California

Jarred Viktor, age 15, (Paxil), after five days on Paxil he stabbed his grandmother 61 times.

Chris Shanahan, age 15 (Paxil) in Rigby, ID who out of the blue killed a woman.

Jeff Franklin (Prozac and Ritalin), Huntsville, AL, killed his parents as they came home from work using a sledge hammer, hatchet, butcher knife and mechanic's file, then attacked his younger brothers and sister.

Neal Furrow (Prozac) in LA Jewish school shooting reported to have been court-ordered to be on Prozac along with several other medications.

Kevin Rider, age 14, was withdrawing from Prozac when he died from a gunshot wound to his head. Initially it was ruled a suicide, but two years later, the investigation into his death was opened as a possible homicide. The prime suspect, also age 14, had been taking Zoloft and other SSRI antidepressants.

Alex Kim, age 13, hung himself shortly after his Lexapro prescription had been doubled. Diane Routhier was prescribed Welbutrin for gallstone problems. Six days later, after suffering many adverse effects of the drug, she shot herself.

Billy Willkomm, an accomplished wrestler and a University of Florida student, was prescribed Prozac at the age of 17. His family found him dead of suicide – hanging from a tall ladder at the family's Gulf Shore Boulevard home in July 2002.

Kara Jaye Anne Fuller-Otter, age 12, was on Paxil when she hung herself from a hook in her closet. Kara's parents said ".... the damn doctor wouldn't take her off it and I asked him to when we went in on the second visit. I told him I thought she was having some sort of reaction to Paxil...")

Drugs associated with mass shootings and suicide.

Please see link below

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asaferconnecticut/tmy/0128/Matt%20Powell%20-%20Manchester%20CT.pdf>

Eric Harris age 17 (first on Zoloft then Luvox) and Dylan Klebold aged 18 (Columbine school shooting in Littleton, Colorado), killed 12 students and 1 teacher, and wounded 23 others, before killing themselves. Klebold's medical records have never been made available to the public.

Jeff Weise, age 16, had been prescribed 60 mg/day of Prozac (three times the average starting dose for adults!) when he shot his grandfather, his grandfather's girlfriend and many fellow students at Red Lake, Minnesota. He then shot himself. 10 dead, 12 wounded.

Cory Baadsgaard, age 16, Wahluke (Washington state) High School, was on Paxil (which caused him to have hallucinations) when he took a rifle to his high school and held 23 classmates hostage. He has no memory of the event.

Chris Fetters, age 13, killed his favorite aunt while taking Prozac. Christopher Pittman, age 12, murdered both his grandparents while taking Zoloft.

Mathew Miller, age 13, hung himself in his bedroom closet after taking Zoloft for 6 days. Kip Kinkel, age 15, (on Prozac and Ritalin) shot his parents while they slept then went to school and opened fire killing 2 classmates and injuring 22 shortly after beginning Prozac treatment.

Luke Woodham, age 16 (Prozac) killed his mother and then killed two students, wounding six others. A boy in Pocatello, ID (Zoloft) in 1998 had a Zoloft-induced seizure that caused an armed stand off at his school.

Michael Carneal (Ritalin), age 14, opened fire on students at a high school prayer meeting in West Paducah, Kentucky. Three teenagers were killed, five others were wounded.. A young man in Huntsville, Alabama (Ritalin) went psychotic chopping up his parents with an ax and also killing one sibling and almost murdering another.

Andrew Golden, age 11, (Ritalin) and Mitchell Johnson, aged 14, (Ritalin) shot 15 people, killing four students, one teacher, and wounding 10 others.

TJ Solomon, age 15, (Ritalin) high school student in Conyers, Georgia opened fire on and wounded six of his class mates.

Rod Mathews, age 14, (Ritalin) beat a classmate to death with a bat. James Wilson, age 19, (various psychiatric drugs) from Breenwood, South Carolina, took a .22 caliber revolver into an elementary school killing two young girls, and wounding seven other children and two teachers.