

March 25, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H5436

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Wendy Oliver, and I live in Pawtucket; my Representative is Jennifer Stewart. I am a member/volunteer of RI Coalition Against Gun Violence. I'm writing in support of Representative Knight's assault weapons regulation bill, H5436.

This bill will reduce the number of deadly, military-stye firearms in our communities and it will keep us safer. I am horrified at the number of mass shootings in our country, and very worried that RI will be next. According to the Brady Report, when an assault weapon is used in a mass shooting, nearly 14 times as many people are injured and twice as many killed as using more standard weapons. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, from 2015-2022, mass shootings with assault weapons resulted in almost six times as many people shot and twice as many killed as compared to conventional weapons.

Children and parents should not have to live in fear of gun violence in their schools, and citizens should not have to live in fear of gun violence in public places such as malls and parking lots. Although banning assault weapons would not totally solve the problem of shootings in RI, it would be a huge step towards lowering the death toll.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation. Getting these weapons of war off our streets 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,

Wendy Oliver

Pawtucket, RI