

Ariana Costa

From: Eddy R <etr92561@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:47 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H-5436 Assault Weapons Ban in Rhode Island

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To Whom It May Concern,

The proposed H-5436 bill sounds like a safety win, but dig deeper—it has serious flaws and has nothing to do with safety.

1. 5th Amendment Trouble: It bans transferring firearms in estates, slashing their value without compensation. The Constitution says that's a "taking"—and heirs could sue.
2. Probate Nightmares: The bill's wording could mean pricey legal battles to transfer firearms after someone passes, often costing more than the gun's worth.
3. Way Beyond "Assault Rifles": This isn't just about military-style guns—it will ban ~74% of all firearms with detachable magazines, and any revolver or handgun weighing over 50oz. empty, which many have legally owned for over a century.
4. Clashes with RI Law: Rhode Island has banned gun registration since 1959 (R.I.G.L. 11-47-41). This bill breaks that rule.
5. Self-Defense at Risk: The Supreme Court (*Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, 2005) says police don't have to protect you. This bill could leave law-abiding Rhode Islanders defenseless against armed criminals.
6. Misleading Spin: Polls push the idea this only targets "military weapons," but it hits most firearms. True military guns are already banned!

The Bottom Line: H-5436 won't save lives—it'll disarm responsible Rhode Islanders who've passed strict training and background checks. Is this really about safety or control? Tell the committee to ditch this bill!

Respectfully,
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