

Ellen Kellner  
House District 40  
328 Evans Road  
Chepachet, RI  
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Re: Support of House Bill 5436

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of House Judiciary Committee

I have been an active member of the RI Coalition Against Gun Violence since shortly after the Sandy Hook school shooting killed 26 people by a perpetrator with an AR-15. Since Sandy Hook there have been 189 school shootings with at least one fatality, but the ones with the most carnage came from shooters using assault weapons. Three examples below:

**Santa Fe Texas** in 2018 where an AR-15 resulted in 10 deaths.

**Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland FL** where an AR-15 killed 17

**Robb Elementary School, Uvalde TX** where an AR-15 resulted in 21 deaths.

If there had been a federal ban of assault weapons after the Sandy Hook shooting perhaps these notorious school crimes could have been prevented. And it isn't only the loss of life that is tragic. Serious injuries will affect some victims for the rest of their lives. The immediate and extended families of those killed will suffer the loss of their loved ones for the rest of their lives. All the other children in the school will be affected for the rest of their lives, some grappling with survivors' guilt. How can our nation be so callous to block legislation that could have prevented such trauma?

Since the federal government is not acting, it is up to the states to enact a ban of assault weapons. We all know that Connecticut and Massachusetts have enacted this legislation. It is time for Rhode Island to do the same. Please pass this bill out of your committee for a vote on the house floor. Thank you.

Ellen Kellner