

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** George W. Johnson <geowjohn53@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 11:57 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of H5436

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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March 26, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H5436

Chairwoman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary:

My name is George Johnson, I live in Coventry and my Representative is Patricia Morgan. I am a volunteer with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence. I am retired from a 33 year career in State Service.

I'm here in support of Representative Knight's assault weapons ban bill, 5436.

Protecting public health, safety and welfare is the most fundamental duty of government, and the level of gun violence and mass shootings endemic in America begs for effective governmental action.

In the wake of Sandy Hook, Parkland, Lewiston, and other mass shooting tragedies, I believe we all need to work together on many fronts to solve a very serious problem impacting the public health, safety and welfare: the unfettered availability to the civilian population of highly dangerous and efficient killing firearms originally designed for warfare.

I believe that allowing unlimited access to military-style assault weapons, and allowing firearms to be stored unsafely where they may be readily accessible to children and others not properly trained in their safe and legitimate usage is an invitation to continuing America's plague of gun death and gun violence.

Recent Federal Court rulings have affirmed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment does not convey absolute, unlimited rights. The public health, safety and welfare requires that civilian access to highly dangerous weapons of war, which are currently too readily obtainable, be properly limited. In this regard, I encourage your favorable reporting of House bill 5436 for a floor vote.

Please act now so Rhode Island may avoid a tragedy.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to present my views.

George W. Johnson

