

Dear Representatives/Senators,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Rhode Island regarding the proposed firearm ban. As someone who believes that you were elected to protect our freedoms, liberties, and overall well-being through thoughtful legislation, I am deeply troubled by the momentum this ban has gained. As a lifelong Democrat, I find it surprising that this proposal is advancing—especially considering that it infringes on our 2nd Amendment rights, which you have sworn to uphold. Moreover, Rhode Island's gun violence statistics do not support the need for such a ban.

According to the CDC, in 2022 (the most recent available data), Rhode Island ranked **50th in the nation** for gun violence. Out of 37 firearm-related deaths that year, 23 were suicides. Furthermore, the 2022 Gun Crimes Report released by the Attorney General's Office revealed that the majority of homicides were committed with concealable firearms, such as handguns (Glocks, Berettas, Sig Sauers, and ghost guns), not assault-style rifles. Additionally, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) estimates that **less than 7% of crimes in the U.S.** involve assault-style rifles. Given these facts, I am left asking: **Why pursue an assault rifle ban?**

Rhode Island's current gun laws appear to be effective, and gun violence in our state remains at a historic low. This proposed ban seems less about addressing actual gun violence and more about aligning Rhode Island with other Democratic states that have implemented similar legislation. However, Rhode Island has always been a **proudly independent state** with a rich history of protecting the rights of its people. Our senators and representatives serve as the frontline defenders against government overreach, and I urge you to uphold that tradition.

As citizens, we must remain vigilant and avoid falling into tribal thinking that blinds us to reasoned, evidence-based decision-making. The 2nd Amendment was enshrined by our Founding Fathers, who had firsthand experience with the dangers of unchecked government power. While the debate over the 2nd Amendment has become increasingly contentious, it's important to remember that many people around the world still face the very dangers that our Constitution seeks to prevent.

I urge you to make the right decision by voting **no** on this legislation. As one of our elected leaders, you are our safeguard, and we have placed our trust in you to protect our rights and preserve the principles that make Rhode Island strong.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Giorgios Bovis of Providence County