

My name is Jake Soares and I live in West Warwick Rhode Island. I came here today to voice my opinion on these bills that are scheduled for hearing or consideration today. It has already been proven on a state and federal level that assault firearms bans are not wanted or needed by the majority of United States citizens. Why are we so intent on following the lead of states like California, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut? These bills are not the most important issue in Rhode Island today, homelessness, wages, inflation and the economy of this state are where you all should be directing your focus. RI's firearm laws are in the top 10 strictest in the country. RI does not have a firearm problem.

I am against the following bills:

House Bill No. 5436 (Governor/Secretary of State/General Treasurer/Attorney General/Lieutenant Governor) BY Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Speakman, McEntee, Ajello, Kazarian, Craven, Dawson, Felix ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- RHODE ISLAND ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN ACT OF 2025 {LC1181/1} (Establishes the Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025.)

House Bill No. 5443 BY Boylan, Ajello, Knight, McEntee, Craven, Caldwell, Dawson, Batista, Cruz, Felix ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY – SUICIDE PREVENTION--VOLUNTARY FIREARM RESTRICTIONS ACT {LC1478/1} (Creates process for individual to voluntarily be either temporarily or indefinitely added to a list restricting their rights to purchase or possess firearms.)

House Bill No. 5651 BY McEntee, Fogarty, Caldwell, Spears, Boylan, Carson, Tanzi, Dawson, Knight ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO DELINQUENT AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN - PROCEEDINGS IN FAMILY COURT -- JUVENILE RECORDS {LC1834/1} (Allows access to juvenile criminal records in order to conduct firearm background checks.)

House Bill No. 5652 BY Boylan, Tanzi, Knight, Dawson, Craven, Batista, Felix, Caldwell, Ajello, McEntee ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC1508/1} (Precludes a person who pled nolo contendere or convicted of a misdemeanor offense and sentenced in accordance with the hate crime sentencing enhancement act for such misdemeanor, from purchasing, owning, carrying, transporting or having possession firearm)

House Bill No. 5654 BY Fogarty, McEntee, Spears, Boylan, Carson, Donovan, Tanzi, Dawson, Kislak, Knight ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC1835/1} (Prohibits local licensing authorities from issuing a concealed carry permit to out of state residents based on permits issued by authorities from other states or subdivisions.)

House Bill No. 5889 (Attorney General) BY Craven ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- EXPUNGEMENT OF CRIMINAL RECORDS {LC2195/1} (Allows a law enforcement agency to consider expunged records when issuing a license or permit to carry a pistol or revolver.)

House Bill No. 5890 (Attorney General) BY Boylan, Knight, Caldwell, Dawson, Tanzi, Fogarty, Furtado, Kislak, Noret, Hull ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC2193/1} (Specifies that it is unlawful for any person under the age of eighteen (18) to possess a firearm.)

House Bill No. 5891 (Attorney General) BY Ajello, Donovan, Knight ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC2194/1} (Disqualifies individuals with prior felony convictions from purchasing or possessing a firearm.)

I am for the following bills:

House Bill No. 5653 BY Corvese ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC1908/1} (Prohibits the licensing authority from imposing additional or stricter requirements than the department of attorney general as well as prohibiting said licensing authorities from imposing any fees, other than the fee required in § 11-47-12.)

House Bill No. 5666 BY O'Brien ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MAINTENANCE OF ORDER ON CAMPUS {LC1731/1} (Mandates arming campus police at public higher educational institutions and includes campus police in the definition of "law enforcement officer" for the purposes of the "Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights.")

House Bill No. 5667 BY O'Brien ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- MAINTENANCE OF ORDER ON CAMPUS {LC1843/1} (Requires that all campus police officers be equipped with ballistic body armor.)

House Bill No. 5933 BY Lima, Casey, J. Brien, Place, Corvese, Serpa, Bennett, Edwards ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC1887/1} (Provides that any person eighteen (18) years of age who is issued a license or permit may carry a stun gun.)

House Bill No. 5934 BY Casey, Lima, Phillips, Solomon, Noret, Costantino, Chippendale, Place, Corvese, Roberts ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC2088/1} (Provides that any person eighteen (18) years of age who is issued a license or permit may carry a stun gun.)

House Bill No. 5935 BY Fascia, Place, Chippendale, Paplauskas, Quattrocchi, Santucci, Casey ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS – CONCEALED CARRY REFORM {LC1311/1} (Expands firearm rights to recognize out of state carry permits, authorizes weapons carried during emergency evacuation and establishes an appeal process for permit denied.)

House Bill No. 5936 BY Noret, Place, Corvese, Chippendale, Dawson, Phillips, Bennett, J. Brien, Casey, Read ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC1750/1} (Provides the review and appeal process for individuals applying for a permit or license to carry a handgun with the licensing authority or attorney general.)

House Bill No. 6042 BY Hull, Casey ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- WEAPONS {LC2305/1} (Exempts certain U.S. employees from having to obtain state licenses to carry a visible or concealed pistol or revolver.)