

Dear Chairman Craven and Committee Members,

My name is Jim Kingston, a retired resident of Providence RI, and I am writing in strong support of H-5436.

I am also writing to support bills H-5443, H-5651, H-5652, H- 5654, H-5889, H-5890 and H- 5891.

I also strongly oppose H-5653, H-5666, H- 5933 and 5934, H- 5935, H-5936 and H-6042

Regarding bill H- 5436, not a month goes by when we do not learn of another- or more- mass casualty event(s) resulting from the use of guns. Many of these grizzly events and deaths are caused by various different assault-type weapons. While our focus is always drawn to those directly killed or injured in such mass casualty attacks, we may lose sight of the totality of those affected. According to a recent Journal of American Medical Association research piece (March 7, 2025), 7% of the people surveyed reported having been present during a mass shooting event (defined as 4 or more people being shot) and 2% were injured (including by being shot, trampled or experiencing related injuries). If this was extrapolated to the entire US population, then that would mean that 23,800,000 people, our fellow Americans, have directly suffered from mass shooting events and the lasting trauma these shootings trigger. This is greater than the population of Florida.

Bill H-5436 would not cure this problem as there are already so many assault-type weapons in our communities, but it would stop it from getting any worse.

So far, we here in Rhode Island have been fortunate not to suffer from an assault weapon-caused mass killing event, but are we seriously willing to test if our luck will continue? Multiple surveys in the past few years demonstrate that a very high percentage of the RI population want to ban assault-type weapons. All of our State-wide office holders support an assault-type weapons ban. Based on the number of sponsors in the House and Senate, it is clear that bills banning assault weapons would pass on the floor.

It is time to pass H-5436 out of Committee and onto the floor for a vote!
Thank you for your consideration.