

H 5436- Opposed

Please proceed with care around new gun laws. Rhode Island has effective gun laws in place with a violent crime rate of is 1.988 per 1,000 residents<sup>1</sup>. Rhode Island has the 47th-highest (or fourth-lowest) rate for violent crime, at 172 incidents per 100,000 residents. As the facts bear out RI's existing gun laws are working relative to other states, and if you consult the violent crime map the issue of violence is limited to areas of poverty and our dense population centers, these areas need targeted assistance to address the underlying causes of violence.

My review of the proposed legislation is defective for the following reasons:

- Most of the technical aspects of the descriptions of firearms seem to lack an understanding of how common firearms operate and as such covers virtually every semiautomatic firearm subject to the law.
- That this act is a flagrant violation of our State's Constitution and a violation of violation of your oath of office. Rhode Island's Constitution, Article I Section 22. Right to bear arms. "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."
- The idea of registry for guns has proven to be ineffective in CT , their registration effort is deemed by a local police chief as having just a fraction of the rifles registered. This one item is a lightning rod for opponents, those who cooperate are typically never a problem for law enforcement or their fellow citizens. So, this begs the question; what are you trying to accomplish?
- Finally, the question I have is this, why not look at mandatory sentencing for gun crimes and the presence of a gun in the commission of a crime? Our Attorney General's office routinely drops gun charges to get guilty pleas on other chargers. If your desire is to affect crime in our most active areas and to protect the residents of those communities, this would be an effort your citizens would get behind. Why are you attempting to disarm or highly regulate some of your most peaceful and law-abiding citizens?

[Rhode Island Violent Crime Rates and Maps | CrimeGrade.org](https://www.crimegrade.org/rhode-island-violent-crime-rates-and-maps)

As a veteran, a former Town Councilor and a concerned member of my community I oppose your efforts around stiffening already effective Rhode Island gun laws. If you wish to discuss this further, I would be most willing to assist in getting to a deeper level of understanding around this issue.

Respectfully,

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