OPPOSE H5436, H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, H5891

House Judiciary Committee Chair and Committee members,

My name is Jennifer Olivelli and as a woman, a sister, a daughter, a registered voter, RI resident and a tax payer, I oppose the bills listed above; however, I think H5436 is the most dangerous if passed. This bill will ban some of the most commonly owned semi automatic firearms that are used for self defense, sport and hunting. These firearms have never been used by the military and are not "Weapons of War" as all only fire one shot for each trigger pull. In fact the entire concept of "assault weapons" is a made up term intended to scare people based on cosmetic features. Firearms are tools that are used 50 times more as defensive weapons to save lives than as "assault weapons" to take lives. Any tool can be used to take a life...a knife, bat, rock. But nobody refers to "assault knives" or "assault bats" because assault is an action, not an object.

If law enforcement needs these tools to stop a threat, lawful citizens should have the same tools as they are faced with the threats BEFORE police arrive on a crime scene. If these firearms are essential for law enforcement to effectively combat criminals after a crime is committed, it's even more important that potential victims have the same capacity to combat criminals as the police are typically no less than 7 minutes away.

Lastly have you thought about how this bill would adversely impact women, who rely on these tools for self defense? Men are stronger, faster and bigger than women and firearms that would fall under the classes of weapons you've listed in this bill would ultimately hurt women's ability to defend themselves. Gun rights are women's rights and voting for this bill would be a vote against women. Passing this bill tells all registered voters of RI that we've elected politicians who value the lives of law enforcement more than their constituents. Disarming good people does not make bad people good.

Please do NOT support H5436!

Respectfully,

Jennifer Olivelli