

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Jim Lynch <jim@thermoco.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2025 9:10 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Against House bill 5436

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

House Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for your hard work.

I am asking for your help.

The gun control legislation is illegal as per the state and federal constitutions, dishonest for its claim to save lives, and unethical as it is a diversion from more important matters. It will not save lives and the similar legislation, high-capacity magazine ban, did not save lives.

Please fight against it. It is a waste of time when the state has real problems that need to be addressed. Like the budget, mental health, jobs and substance abuse.

Article 1, Section 22 of the RI constitution reads “ The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”. The second amendment is well known.

RI had 58 gun related deaths in 2023. 35 of those deaths were suicides.

RI has had 3 rifle related deaths in the past 5 years. One of which involved an AR.

Extrapolating the data, an AR ban would have saved 1 life over the past 5 years. Preventing gun related suicides would have saved 191 lives over the same time period.

The focus should be on saving lives and improving the lives of Rhode Island citizens. We are coming into a budget and fiscal crisis with no federal help in sight.

This bill is a diversion while the state continues to decline because of poor management. I ask that you use your time well and consider the years of lawsuits that will come from this gun ban.

A few facts.

Most modern shotguns used for hunting are semi-automatic

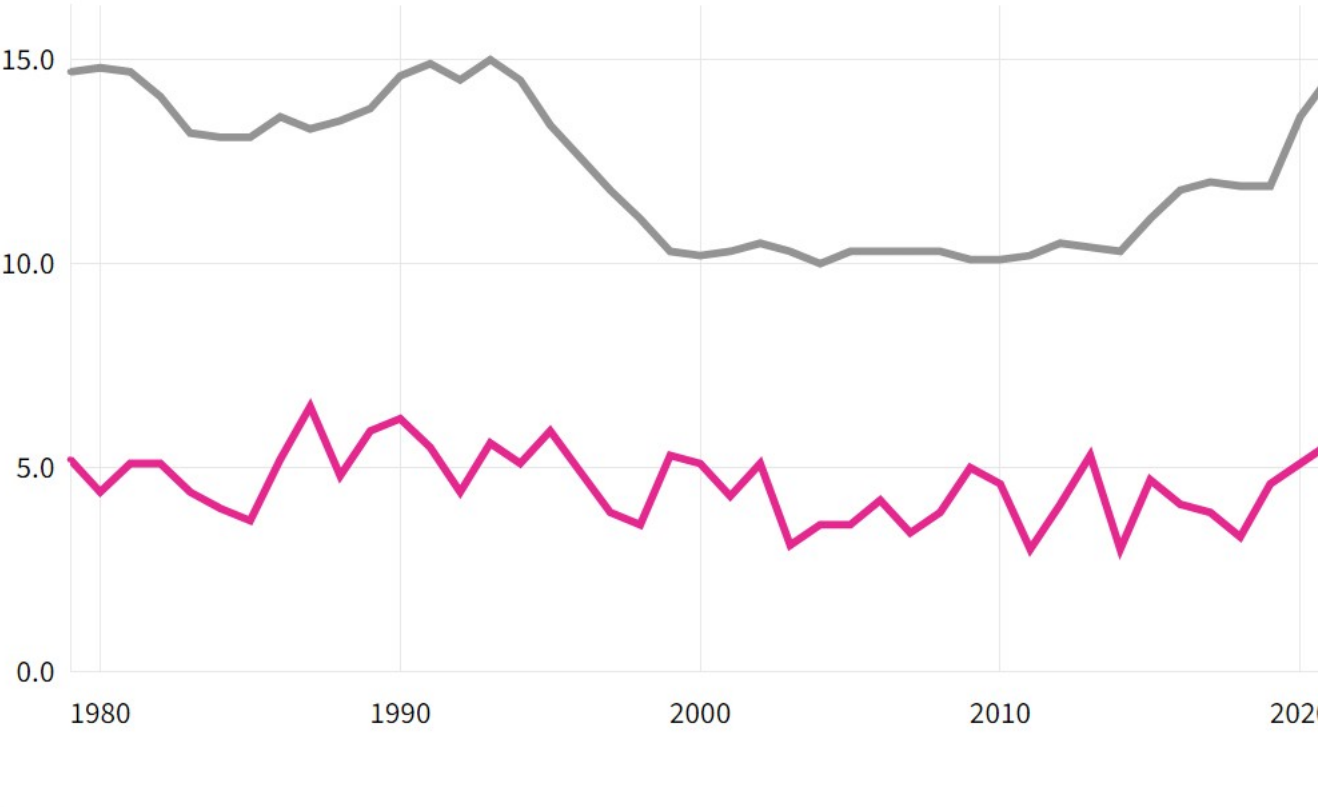
Most pistols are semi-automatic.

RI gun laws were effective before the high-capacity magazine ban. The high-capacity ban saved no lives.

RI state’s firearm mortality rate is fourth lowest in the nation.

# In 2023, the gun death rate was 65% lower in Rhode Island than US.

Age-adjusted rate of firearms deaths, 1979 - 2023, 2023 data is provisional



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & 2 more

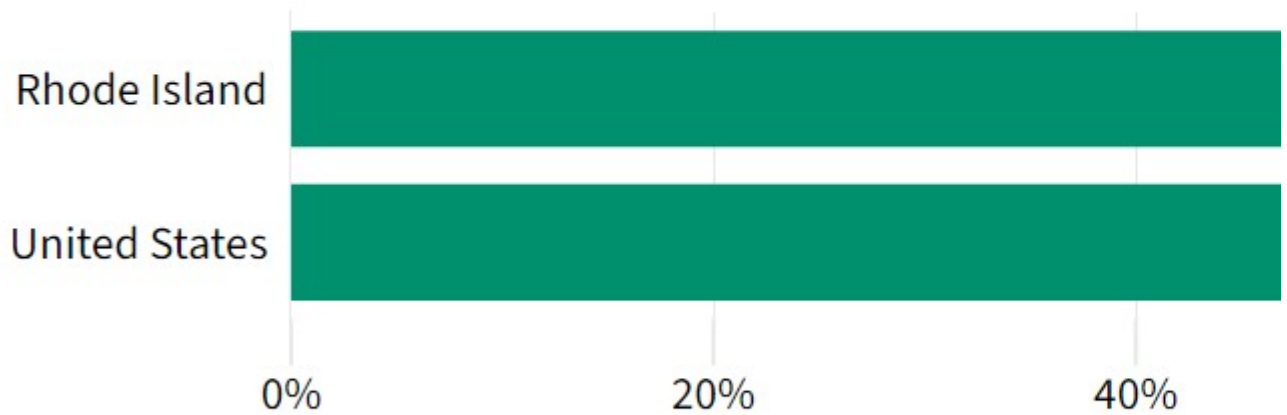
One percent of those deaths involved rifles.

.3% of those deaths involved AR type rifles.

# In 2023, 66% of gun deaths in Rhode Island

Age-adjusted rate of firearms deaths, 1979 - 2023, 2023 data

● Suicide ● Other



**Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention & 1 |**

In 2022, Rhode Island reported **424 drug overdose deaths**, which translates to **39 deaths per 100,000 people**. This was the second highest drug overdose death rate in the state since data from 1999 became available<sup>1</sup>. The rise in drug overdose deaths has been largely attributed to the increasing use of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

If you want more detailed and up-to-date information, you can explore the RIDOH Opioid and Stimulant Use Data Hub

Matters that need fixing:

RI has the second highest utility costs in the US

The Washington bridge failure of accountability, cost control, maintenance, honesty

Fourth worst roads in the country, worst in New England

The lowest decile for business environment in the country

No bid contracts given to Governor's friends as per AG Neronha

Profligate spending with little to show for it

Mismanaged the budget to a financial crisis

424 drug related deaths in 2022

Jim Lynch

East Greenwich