

TO: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: John Layton

RE: Support: H 5436

DATE: 3/25/25

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is John Layton, and I live in North Kingstown.

I am writing in support of H 5436 (Knight), which would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons.

In addition, the bill will provide a pathway for owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they already own. This bill will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms – which are commonplace in public mass shootings – in our communities.

I have lost a colleague to gun violence in Westerly, RI. My two sons' have mentioned to me that they both have a plan for WHEN not IF their school has a shooting. We need to take measures to keep military style weapons from being sold in RI.

Please pass this common-sense gun safety bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

John Layton