

RE: Support for H 5436 to stop the sale of assault weapons

Dear Chair Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge your support for H5436, to stop the sale of assault weapons in Rhode Island.

Each year of delay allows more of these weapons to be sold here.

Please do not wait for the unthinkable to occur before acting, as was the case in Illinois. Within months after the mass shooting at the 4th of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois became the 9th state to ban assault weapons.

The unthinkable got closer in 2023.

Nine of the 18 people killed by the shooter in Lewiston, Maine were at the Schemengees Bar and Grille.

This happened on a Wednesday. My brother-in-law's pool group played there on Thursdays.

We know you have the votes to pass this legislation. You must ask yourselves how you would feel if a weapon sold here was later used in a mass shooting. When you could have acted sooner.

In closing, I am glad to report that my representative, Deputy Speaker Raymond Hull, (copied on this testimony) is again a cosponsor. I urge you to send 5436 to the House floor. It time to act.

Sincerely,

Kate McGovern

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