

Ariana Costa

From: linda hines <lmhinesri@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 9:39 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.
Subject: Written Testimony: Gun Legislation: SUPPORT 5436, 5652,5654, 5889 OPPOSE: 5666,5935, 6042

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Linda Hines and I live in Narragansett. My Representative is Carol Hagan McEntee. I write as a supporter of responsible gun owners who enjoy hunting and recreational shooting, having grown up in a hunting family in a rural area, although not a gun owner myself. As such, I strongly support H5436 which would ban military-style assault weapons in Rhode Island and, as well, I am especially in favor of H5652, H5654, and H5889.

The weapons that would be banned by H5436 are extremely deadly and produce massive injury to the human body, as they were designed for military use. No parent should ever have to face the damage inflicted to their child by having been shot by an assault weapon. Massive body wounds and decapitation often lead to children being identified only by their DNA. The particular features that this bill targets are useful in military and criminal applications of guns, rather than self-defense.

Statistics compiled by Everytown for Gun Safety between 2015 and 2022 found that mass shootings where more than four people were killed resulted in six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and on average, 23 times as many people wounded compared to those not involving an assault weapon.

It is time for Rhode Island to join ten states and Washington, D.C. in banning the sale, manufacture, and transfer of assault weapons. Assault weapon bans in other states, such as Illinois and Massachusetts, have been challenged in federal courts and found to be constitutional. Further, this bill has a "legacy" provision allowing those already legally possessing an assault weapon to register and keep it.

Individuals who have been convicted of a hate crime cannot be trusted to possess a firearm, and so I support H5652. I consider it very important that we do not recognize any concealed carry permits issued by other states or their authorities, due to lack of any kind of standards for issuing such permits. At least one state, Texas, allows anyone to carry a concealed weapon. Therefore, I SUPPORT H5654 and OPPOSE H5935.

It is important that an individual's full background be considered when determining whether they should be allowed to obtain a gun., and so I support H5889 which allows law enforcement consideration of expunged records.

No evidence exists which makes it necessary for every campus police officer at a Rhode Island public college to be armed. Also, there is no legitimate reason why any US employee should not have to abide by Rhode Island's requirements to obtain a license to carry a gun. I oppose both H5666 and H6042.

Please follow the lead of Maine Congressman Jared Golden who changed his mind about banning assault weapons after a horrific mass murder in his home state. Seventy per cent of Rhode Islanders support this ban.

As a long-time member of such good government groups as Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence, I urge you to approve/oppose these bills, as recommended above, move them out of committee and to the house floor for a vote.

Thank you,
Linda M. Hines
Narragansett, RI