

Roberta DiMezza

From: Marshall Sullivan <marshall.sullivan@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 7:44 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony of HB5436 - Opposition for the bill.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Judiciary,

I am submitting written testimony ahead of the bill hearings in case I am unable to attend them in person. As a Rhode Island resident, who resides in Cranston, I am deeply concerned about the introduction of House Bill 5436 - the "assault weapons" ban - and how it impacts law-abiding gun owners like myself, as well as residents who are interested in learning more about the proper handling, storage, and recreational/hunting usage of firearms. If this bill were to pass and take effect, **ALL** semi-autos would effectively be banned, as well as large pistols because of the 50oz regulation in one of the sections.

With this bill in effect, it would make self defense **significantly more difficult**. Those who rely on rifles and long guns to defend their families, land, businesses, pets, and themselves will no longer be able to do so. Gun shops will run out of business, as concerns are expressed by Big Bear Hunting for example. The passage of the bill will empower those who seek to terrorize peaceable citizens and their communities, as criminals will choose to ignore such laws anyway. Recreational shooting & hunting will become obsolete in the state of Rhode Island, forcing residents to move out in order to continue participating in such hobbies. This will hurt the state economically and exacerbate poor economic statistics.

Here are the facts: **very few** semi-autos are used in gun violence in the state, especially in recent times. A majority of gun deaths are suicides, not homicides. Within those homicides, many are **gang-related** & are associated with criminal activities. Meaning the vast majority of law-abiding gun owners are not responsible for gun violence in the state. Rhode Island stills finds a spot within the 10 most safest states to live in the U.S. for this reason, many are secured the right to keep and bear arms and prove to be **responsible gun owners**. There are currently 160,000+ gun owners in the state, and growing day by day; this statistic should not scare anybody, on the contrary, it is reassuring that there are residents who are interested in the proper handling & storage of firearms, as well as understanding the rules of gun safety.

I'm not saying that banning handguns instead of semi-autos is the solution either. Rather than infringe on Rhode Islanders' 2nd Amendment rights, the focus should be shifted on the root causes of gun violence like **mental illness, economic struggle, and gang violence**. Legislation should be introduced to mitigate these root causes instead of banning almost every firearm out there; this is a huge overreach of power. I am asking members of the House Judiciary to vote **NO** on HB5436 and keep our 2nd Amendment rights intact. Simply put, if you are in favor of the passage of this bill, **you will not receive my vote for re-election**. As an unaffiliated voter, I will pay close attention to those who oppose and are in favor of HB5436 and vote accordingly in the primaries. Thank you for considering my words.

Kindest regards,
Marshall Sullivan