

Anabella Mayorga

From: Michael Carnevale <mjc4370@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 3:22 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Opposition to Rhode Island HB 5436 – Assault Weapons Ban

Michael J. Carnevale
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3/21/2025

Dear Honorable Chairman Craven and House Judiciary Committee Members,

Subject: Opposition to Rhode Island HB 5436 – Assault Weapons Ban

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 5436, the proposed assault weapons ban in Rhode Island. While I fully support efforts to reduce violence and ensure public safety, this bill unfairly targets law-abiding gun owners without addressing the root causes of crime.

HB 5436 defines and bans so-called "assault weapons" based primarily on cosmetic features rather than functionality. These firearms operate no differently than many commonly owned semi-automatic hunting rifles and handguns. The vast majority of responsible gun owners use them for lawful purposes, including self-defense, competitive shooting, and recreational use. Criminals, by contrast, do not abide by gun laws, and restricting responsible citizens from owning certain firearms will not deter violent crime.

Additionally, this bill infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of Rhode Islanders. The Supreme Court has consistently upheld an individual's right to bear arms for self-defense, and such broad restrictions could face significant legal challenges. Law-abiding gun owners should not be penalized for the actions of criminals who misuse firearms.

Instead of banning firearms based on arbitrary classifications, I urge you to focus on measures that effectively target crime, such as strengthening penalties for illegal firearm use, improving mental health resources, and enforcing existing laws more rigorously. Addressing the root causes of violence—rather than restricting the rights of responsible citizens—will yield more meaningful and lasting results.

I strongly encourage you to oppose HB 5436 and advocate for policies that protect both public safety and the constitutional rights of Rhode Islanders. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Carnevale