

Mike Seward  
41 N.Lake Dr.  
Barrington,RI 02806

RE: Support: H 5436

DATE: 3/24/25

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Mike Seward and I live in Barrington. My representative is Jennifer Boylan.

I strongly urge you to support H 5436 (Rep. Knight), which would regulate the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons. While this bill provides a pathway for current legal owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they currently have, it will reduce the pervasiveness of military-style firearms in our RI community, access to which poses enormous threat to public health.

I grew up in Michigan, in a family in which I was taught to safely use guns for hunting. But owning guns used for sport is vastly different than possession of military-style assault weapons, commonly known to be used in mass shootings.

When an assault weapon and/or large capacity magazine is used in a public mass shooting, nearly 14 times as many people are injured and twice as many people are killed. Lawfully purchased assault weapons were used in the tragic shootings in Parkland, Florida, and Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Assault weapons present an immense risk and it is past time to control assault weapons in Rhode Island.

Please pass this common-sense gun safety bill H5436 out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,  
Mike Seward