

Natalie Harrington  
96 Taber Avenue  
Providence, RI 02906

March 24, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H5436

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Natalie Harrington and I live in Providence and my Representative is Representative Edith Ajello.

I'm writing in strong support of Representative Knight's assault weapons regulation bill, H5436. This bill will reduce the number of deadly, military-style firearms in our communities and it will keep us safer.

As a mother of two young Rhode Islanders, I implore you to pass this bill on behalf of all kids in this state. A recent Children's Defense Fund's Parent and Child Trends Survey by YouGov found fear of a school shooting the second most common worry for children between 6 and 17 years old and their parents. One-third of children surveyed said they are worried about a shooting happening at their school. Our children should be able to attend school without fear and parents should be able to send their children to school with confidence.

Gun deaths are the leading cause of death for children in this country and when an assault weapon and/or a 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. You have the power to prevent this destruction and preventable loss of life.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation. Rhode Islanders deserve to live free from gun violence, and getting these weapons of war off our streets is an important and long overdue step. It is time to vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Sincerely,  
Natalie Harrington