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Good Afternoon Honorable Representatives

I am writing to state my opposition to H5436.

I understand the entire Second Amendment discussion is a highly emotional and volatile scenario. With that I will do my best from feeding into the emotionalism.

I will also state the Rhode Island Constitution section 22 states "The Right Of The People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." It is more succinct and has no implications of any interpretation of need for the citizenry to be part of a militia.

With that stated I also realize that there is need for legitimate oversight of the general welfare of a society. That oversight shouldn't be a permission slip to project undesirable or criminal intent upon any member of that society without extremely reasonable grounds.

Many portions of this bill define characteristics of rifles that are in fact cosmetic. The elimination of those cosmetic features neither diminishes nor enhances any of the actual mechanical functions and capabilities of said rifle. They do not increase or decrease the mechanical rate of fire that is inherent in the gun's design. They do not make the gun more or less powerful. They merely alter the gun's appearance. One of the more objectionable characteristics being outlawed in this bill is the 'pistol grip'. There is no concrete proof that a pistol grip makes a rifle more deadly than a rifle that has a standard stock. It is entirely in the realm of sophistry that a pistol grip or stabilizing brace makes a gun more deadly.

What I am primarily concerned with is the use of the terminology 'assault weapon'.

Any weapon, used in an assault is a de facto assault weapon regardless of what the weapon is or any capability of firing a projectile. The assault lies solely in the intent of the assaulter.

In my opinion, passage of this bill will merely be wishful thinking that the societal problem of people who behave aberrantly is any closer to being solved. All this bill will accomplish in effect is to transform legitimate law-abiding citizens into 'manufactured lawbreakers by statute', under the guise of being 'tough on crime', under color of law.

I also add opposition to bills H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, H5891.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Richard Gregoire

