

Rosemary Stitt,  
835 Frenchtown Rd,  
East Greenwich,  
RI 02818

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

**RE: Support of House Bill H5436**

**Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:**

My name is Rosemary Stitt, I live in East Greenwich and am a member of RI Coalition against Gun Violence. I'm proud to say that my Representative is Justine Caldwell.

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

The grim statistics include that 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 compared to shootings that did not involve an assault weapon/large capacity magazine.

The Parkland High School massacre in Florida resulted in the slaughter of 14 students and 3 staff. The shooter used a legally purchased AR-15, a lethal military-style rifle often used in mass shootings, including at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, when 26 lives were taken. It's imperative that legislative action is taken, without further delay, to reduce the risk of similar massacres happening in Rhode Island.

A recent Children's Defense Fund's survey by YouGov found fear of a school shooting the second most prevalent worry for children between 6 and 17 years old and their parents. One third of the children surveyed said they are worried about a shooting happening at their school. It is simply wrong that the fear of school shootings continues to cast such a dark shadow over our children and this underscores the criticality of Bill H5436 being sent to the House floor.

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's way past time to join our neighbors in MA and CT and pass an assault weapons ban.

I implore that you vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Thank you very much for your time and for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

**Rosemary Stitt**