

**Roberta DiMezza**

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**From:** Ryan <ryan\_22878@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 22, 2025 3:32 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bill: H-5436

Ryan Santurri

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March 22, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of Rhode Island's laws protecting the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. The fundamental right to self-defense and the preservation of individual liberties are enshrined in both the United States Constitution and the Rhode Island State Constitution. Any attempt to weaken or infringe upon these rights is a direct violation of the principles upon which our nation and state were founded.

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

This language is clear and unambiguous. The right to bear arms is not a privilege granted by the government, but a pre-existing, inalienable right that shall not be infringed. The Founding Fathers understood that an armed citizenry is essential to maintaining the balance of power between the people and the government.

Similarly, the Rhode Island State Constitution, Article I, Section 22 reinforces this principle, stating:

“The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

Rhode Island’s own constitution echoes the very words of the Second Amendment, affirming the importance of firearm ownership for self-defense, personal security, and resistance against tyranny. The phrase “shall not be infringed” is a definitive statement, leaving no room for excessive restrictions or governmental overreach.

The right to bear arms is not merely about hunting or sport shooting; it is a fundamental safeguard of our freedoms, ensuring that law-abiding citizens can protect themselves, their families, and their communities. Throughout history, disarmament of the populace has often led to oppression, and the erosion of gun rights is a slippery slope toward the weakening of all constitutional rights.

Rhode Island must continue to uphold and defend the rights of its citizens against any unconstitutional restrictions. Lawmakers must recognize that the solution to crime and violence is not to disarm law-abiding individuals, but to enforce existing laws against criminals while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners.

I urge all elected officials and citizens of Rhode Island to stand firm in defense of our Second Amendment rights. Any legislation or regulation that seeks to undermine or restrict these rights must be met with unwavering opposition.

Sincerely,

Ryan Santurri

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)