

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** Scott Adams <sea00730@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 15, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Oppose Bill HB-5436

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

March 15, 2025

Hi,

I'm writing this to you today to inform you that I oppose the unconstitutional attempt to put the "assault weapons"/semi-automatic weapon's bill (HB-5436) in the Rhode Island budget.

This an attack on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights, and to do this in a way that bypasses the legislative process is a clear violation of our constitutional rights.

These are not military grade firearms; they are not fully automatic. They may look similar, but they are nothing more than a modern-day sporting rifle used for hunting and shooting competitions. Unfortunately, they do get a bad reputation because they seem to be the weapon of choice for a clearly sick individuals with a mental disorder. To single this firearm out is wrong, it will stop nothing, if an individual wants to inflict harm on someone, they will do it by whatever means necessary. And to add ALL semi-automatics weapons with detachable magazines, this is just nonsense. I would say 90% of all firearms manufactured today are semi-automatic. This move would put thousands of people out of work, and decrease tax revenue.

Gun Registry- I oppose this 100%. It goes against RI law 11-47-41. And to put an extra tax on firearms in not fair to all of the law-abiding, hard-working citizens of this state.

Let me tell you who we are. We are sportsmen, we enjoy anything from simple target practice, skills competition, hunting and even collecting antique firearms. There are specific firearms used for each of these activities. We train, always looking to improve our skills. I train 2-3 times a month, some people 2-3 times per week. We take a variety of different classes to achieve this, including first aid classes. We become instructors, and range safety officers. We invest in ourselves financially to achieve these goals, putting money back into our community. We are responsible, we keep our firearms stored in a safe manner. We are not the people you see in the movies, sitting at the kitchen table, with a pile of drugs, alcohol, stacks of cash and loaded firearms scattered around the kitchen. In fact, the gun range I go to has a sign before you walk in that says, "if you smell of Marijuana for any reason, you will be asked to leave". We even hold fundraisers, they could be for local charities, or someone that has become ill and needs help paying their medical expenses. We are CCW holders, who have specific insurance in case we find ourselves in a self-defense situation and we need to go to court, and we will need to go to court. This cost about \$500. 00 per year, and we pay this, not because we have to, but because it's the responsible thing to do. Chances are, you come in contact with us every day and don't even realize it.

We're no different than you. We are moms and dads, sisters and brothers, grandparents. We are business owners, lawyers, farmers, school teachers, pilots, carpenters, mechanics, hairdressers, first responders, healthcare workers, retail workers, truck drivers, and even politicians, the list goes on and on. We are on the PTA, coach soccer, basketball, and little league, we are involved in boy scouts, and girl scouts, volunteer in our community and go to church. We go to work every day to make an honest living.

I believe school kids should be educated in the safe handling of firearms. We need to lock criminals up for committing crimes. There needs to be better programs for helping the mentally ill. I feel violent video games are a huge contributor to the mental health crisis. There needs to be better control of these games. You always want to regulate firearms, why not video games?

Every year the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Community gets attacked by the elected officials of this state that took an oath to protect and defend the constitution. Why, probably because it's easier to go after the law-abiding citizens. The focus should be upholding the law and prosecuting the criminals. There is also a huge mental health crisis in this country that needs to be addressed.

Thank You,

Scott Adams

West Warwick, RI