

Ariana Costa

From: Shawn McCurley <shawnmccurley@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 8:46 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Shawn McCurley
Subject: H-5436 Assault Weapons Ban 2025: Against Passage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Chairman Representative Robert E. Craven,

I am writing to strongly urge you to vote against the proposed legislation, H-5436, to ban so-called “assault weapons” in our state. As a Marine Corps veteran who has served this country honorably, I take my constitutional rights seriously—especially those granted by the Second Amendment. This proposed legislation is not only an infringement on my right to keep and bear arms, but it also directly conflicts with the Rhode Island State Constitution.

Article I, Section 22 of the Rhode Island Constitution explicitly protects the right of the people to keep and bear arms. Additionally, our state’s laws prohibit firearm registration, yet this legislation seeks to impose unconstitutional restrictions that undermine these protections. Such measures do nothing to address crime or enhance public safety but instead penalize law-abiding citizens who exercise their rights responsibly.

Furthermore, the already existing ban on standard-capacity magazines is another clear violation of my Second Amendment rights. Limiting magazine capacity does not deter criminals but instead puts law-abiding citizens at a disadvantage when it comes to self-defense. These restrictions continue to chip away at our fundamental rights under the guise of public safety while failing to address the root causes of violent crime.

What is even more troubling is the underhanded manner in which this legislation is being pushed through—by attaching it to the state budget. Sneaking unconstitutional laws into a budget bill to bypass proper legislative debate is not only deceptive but also a blatant abuse of the democratic process. Such tactics erode public trust in our government and set a dangerous precedent for enacting laws that cannot stand on their own merit.

Additionally, I find it deeply concerning that many elected officials pushing for this legislation rely on false and misleading information to scare the public into supporting it. The claims made about these firearms and their use are often exaggerated or outright false, painting a picture that couldn’t be further from the truth. Rather than engaging in fearmongering, I urge you and your colleagues to focus on real solutions that address crime and public safety without infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

Elected representatives must be more accountable and transparent when it comes to issues that are fundamentally protected by both the U.S. and Rhode Island Constitutions. The people are tired of the false narratives constantly pushed by politicians who manipulate the facts to serve their own agendas. It is time for our elected officials to act honorably and serve with credibility and integrity, rather than using fear and misinformation to strip away the rights of those they were elected to represent. Rhode Islanders deserve leaders who uphold their oath to defend the Constitution, not ones who work against it for political gain.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss my viewpoints further and have an open, fact-based conversation on this matter. I hope you will take my concerns seriously and stand with your constituents in opposing this unconstitutional legislation.

I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Shawn McCurley
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