

Roberta DiMezza

From: Sheila Clarkin <sheila.nsrct@proton.me>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 8:26 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Assault Weapons Ban H5436

Greetings,

I am writing to express my intense opposition to the deceptive bill proposal, called the Assault Weapons Ban (as well as sneaking it into the budget). In addition to the undeniable, constitutional right that the Governor and others have repeatedly attempted to usurp from law-abiding citizens, it is common sense/knowledge that a firearm in itself is not a weapon. While unloaded, and securely stored in a lockbox, a gun cannot remove itself, load itself, aim itself, and discharge itself. It is a tool like any other. Assault is an action taken by a human being with ill intent. So, the terminology is greatly misleading, and we know that is done intentionally.

The people who keep trying to pass this bill seem to not care about facts. Assault weapon(s) defined in this legislation include semi-automatics; this is a misnomer. Please review the following statement referencing assault weapons, which can also be found in the first link below. ***The key difference is that semi-automatic firearms, such as AR-15s, only fire a single round each time the trigger is pulled. Automatic firearms — including military assault rifles — discharge continually when the trigger is pulled. Although they are often used in the Armed Services, these firearms are not readily available for sale to the general public. To purchase a fully automatic firearm requires an extensive FBI background check including fingerprints and photographs, as well as registration of the firearm at the federal level.***

Lastly, everyone knows that passing this law will do NOTHING to make the streets safer. No amount of legislation will do so. Why not focus on getting criminals and illegal weapons off the streets instead. Why not work with both anti-gun groups and 2nd-amendment groups equally to draft feasible and legal legislation? Usurping control of law-abiding citizens will never clean up the streets if that is the intended goal. The paraphrased definition of insanity is this, doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results.

Please review the links below. The second one is for Gifford's; the advocacy and research organization focused on preventing gun violence that started due to the tragic shooting of Gabby Giffords. This is an anti-gun lobbyist group. According to this reputable organization, it clearly shows that for every 100,000 deaths in Rhode Island, less than 5% are gun related. Stick with the facts, please!

<https://www.nrila.org/the-truth-about-so-called-assault-weapons/>

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/resources/gun-violence-statistics/>

Sheila Clarkin

North Smithfield