

TO: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Susan Morettini

RE: Support: **H 5436**

DATE: March 20, 2025

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Susan Morettini and I live in Bristol.

I am writing to urge you to support **H 5436** (Knight), which would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons, while providing a pathway for current owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they currently have. This bill will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms – which are commonplace in public mass shootings – in our communities.

On January 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, a letter to the editor was published in my local newspaper with the headline “An assault rifle ban will make you less safe”. In it, the writer blames lazy politicians and the knee-jerk gun control crowd of spreading misinformation about assault weapons and the people who own them for their own self-defense.

What especially bothered me about the letter was there was no mention of the carnage created by these weapons.

The fact that the weapon of choice for mass shootings is an assault weapon can't be overlooked. After the tragic mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 students and 2 teachers were killed by an 18 year old with an AR-15, Uvalde's only pediatrician, Roy Guerrero, shared his horrific experience of that day with legislators in Washington by testifying for safer gun laws. "I want to clarify that the school shooting victims weren't just the children that passed away on May 24," he said. "The victims (also) are our little community - the teachers, the students that survived, the aunts and uncles - everyone either involved directly or indirectly on this horrible day."

Please pass **H-5436** out of committee for a vote on the House floor with a recommendation for passage. Our little communities in RI need to be spared the lifelong trauma that assault weapons have brought to so many little communities like Uvalde, Texas.

I also support **H5651, H5652, H5654, and H5891.**

Sincerely,

Susan Moretiini