

**TO:** Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Suzanne Larson

**RE:** **Support:** H 5436

**DATE:** March 23, 2025

**Chair Craven and Honorable Members of the House Judiciary Committee,**

My name is Suzanne Larson, and House Judiciary Committee member Rep. Dawson is my state representative.

I am writing to urge you to support **H 5436 (Knight)**—a crucial step toward reducing the presence of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms in our communities. This bill would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons while providing a pathway for current owners to retain their existing firearms.

As an educator, this issue is deeply personal. Every day, I walk into my classroom with the weight of an unspoken fear—that my students, my colleagues, or I could be caught in the next tragic act of gun violence. Schools should be places of learning, not lockdown drills and lingering anxiety. No teacher should have to wonder if their classroom will be the next target, and no student should have to navigate their education under a shadow of fear.

We have the power to change this. **Please pass this common-sense gun safety bill out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.** The safety of our children, our educators, and our communities depends on it.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Larson