

To: Chair Robert Craven

From: Valerie Reishuk
430 Morris Avenue
Providence, RI 02906
401-441-1372

Re: SUPPORT H5436
 OPPOSE H5935

Chair Craven and Members of House Judiciary,

My name is Val Reishuk, I reside in Providence and Rebecca Kislak is my Representative. I am a retired Ohio public school teacher and a member of the Providence Monthly Meeting of Friends (Quakers). I write to you today to affirm my Peace Testimony.

Fewer than 15% of the households in the Ocean State contain a registered firearm (RAND). As a pacifist, it seems I am in good company. I cannot approve of any firearm developed to kill humans at velocity as part of our Rhode Island society. Therefore I SUPPORT H5436.

A caveat: the majority of Rhode Island gun owners seem eager to comply with our state's gun laws. I meet these gun owners when I am tabling with RI Moms Demand Action. While the bill language communicates those actions which are *not legal*, citizen education must convey a positive vision of lawful compliance. I ask the bill sponsors to think of pathways to assist our town/city councils and mayors to help in this educational process, if they are willing. For example, when H5436 becomes law, people who can lawfully own this firearm will probably need to carry proof of the date of purchase. We all need to paint the picture of what compliance looks like.

As a former Ohioan, I stand OPPOSED to H5935. No pacifist approves of concealed carry. My experience with concealed carry proponents in Ohio led me to feel that women and girls were *less safe*, not more safe under that policy. Any improvements or expansion of concealed carry is not a good fit for Rhode Island.

Respectfully,

Val Reishuk