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From: Zachary Marcure <zacharymarcure@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 12:41 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H-5436 Assault Weapons Ban in Rhode Island

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

The proposed H-5436 bill sounds like a safety win, but dig deeper—it's got serious flaws and nothing to do with safety.

1. 5th Amendment Trouble: It bans transferring firearms in estates, slashing their value without compensation. The Constitution says that's a "taking"—and heirs could sue.

2. Probate Nightmares: The bill's wording could mean pricey legal battles to transfer firearms after someone passes, often costing more than the gun's worth.

3. Way Beyond "Assault Rifles": This isn't just about military-style guns—it will ban ~74% of all firearms with detachable magazines, and any revolver or handgun weighing over 50oz. empty, which many have legally owned for over a century.

4. Clashes with RI Law: Since 1959, Rhode Island has banned gun registration (R.I.G.L. 11-47-41). This bill breaks that rule.

5. Self-Defense at Risk: The Supreme Court (*Castle Rock v. Gonzales*, 2005) says police don't have to protect you. This bill could leave law-abiding Rhode Islanders defenseless against armed criminals.

6. Misleading Spin: Polls push the idea this only targets "military weapons," but it hits most firearms. True military guns are already banned!

The Bottom Line: H-5436 won't save lives—it'll disarm responsible Rhode Islanders who've passed strict training and background checks. Is this really about safety, or control?

This blatant attack on our liberties is disgusting and has strong roots in racism. This bill defies the Constitution of the United States and the Rhode Island Constitution. Every nation that has disarmed its people has historically turned on them and became authoritarian. Remember this states history, the first colony to declare independence from England and burned HMS Gaspee, the right of the people to keep bear arms is what secured our state and this nation from tyrannical and authoritarian politics through history. Rhode Islanders fought and died for the rights of every American in every war since its founding and this government is spitting on the graves of those brave men and women by even entertaining the ideas in this bill. I along with the rest of this states citizens oppose H-5436.

This state's loyal citizen,

Zachary Marcure