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From: S. Hagberg <operations@thewomxnproject.org>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 2:25 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: In support of H5652
Attachments: H-5652.docx

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Dear House Judiciary:

Please find attached and inserted here my testimony in support of H5652, expanding firearm bans to those adjudicated for hate crimes. Limiting access today will mitigate tragedies of tomorrow.

I am sure all of you are aware, racist, bigoted and otherwise minority-targeted aggression has led to tragedies in communities across the US. Restricting access to firearms to those who have demonstrated the particularly virulent kind of bigoted behavior can reduce the potential for escalation of the hateful criminal behavior. There is majority support in RI, like in the US overall, for improving gun safety. This bill is a small step in providing for a more safe and secure RI. Thank you for your time and attention.

Best Regards,
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Dear House Judiciary Committee Chair and members:

Thank you for your service to Rhode Islanders. And I mean all of us. I am writing today in support of H-5652, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses - Weapons. This bill extends the existing restrictions on firearm ownership and/or possession to those who plead nolo contendere to or are otherwise sentenced for hate crimes, the latter as defined in other existing state law. These crimes, while serious, are often prosecuted as misdemeanors. Misdemeanors are not covered under the existing restriction on the possession of firearms. This legislation extends such restrictions just to the class of misdemeanors defined as hate crimes. As I am sure all of you are aware, racist, bigoted, and otherwise minority-targeted aggression has led to tragedies in communities across the US. Restricting access to firearms to those who have demonstrated the particularly virulent kind of bigoted behavior can reduce the potential for escalation of the hateful criminal behavior. There is majority support in RI, like in the US overall, for improving gun safety. This bill is a small step in providing for a more safe and secure RI. Thank you for your time and attention.

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