



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. MCKEE

April 14, 2023

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman, House Committee on Judiciary
Rhode Island State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2023-H 5300 – An Act Relating To Criminal Offenses – Assault Weapons

Dear Chairman Craven:

I write in strong support of H 5300, a crucial piece of gun safety legislation that would ban the sale of assault weapons in Rhode Island.

Just a few days ago in Louisville, Kentucky, five people were tragically killed and several others were injured at the hands of a gunman with an AR-15 style weapon. This assault weapon was legally purchased one week prior to the massacre, a purchase that could have been prevented if a ban were in place. Because Congress has failed to renew the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, which was in place for a decade, it is up to states to take action to keep their communities safe.

Rhode Island's proposed ban presents a balanced approach to gun safety, prohibiting any future purchases or transfers of assault weapons while also grandfathering in previously obtained assault weapons, provided that they are registered with the appropriate police department. This registration process acts as a second safety check, requiring current owners of assault weapons to undergo a fingerprint-supported criminal background check.

When it comes to addressing gun violence, we need more than thoughts and prayers. The time to act is now.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for this important legislation. I appreciate the General Assembly's continued partnership and I urge passage of an assault weapons ban here in Rhode Island.

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903



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Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKee
Governor

CC: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Jason Knight
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker