

69 Laconia Road
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

February 27, 2024

Roberta DiMezza
Committee Clerk
HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Re: Testimony in Support of H-7051

Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

There are children in Rhode Island who have endured more artillery fire than active duty soldiers serving in the military. There is not one military base in the United States that has outdoor, high-capacity weapons training facilities in a civilian neighborhood—and certainly never across from schools.

My name is Martha DiMeo. My home is two blocks from Western Hills Middle School, Cranston H. S. West, and the Cranston Police Academy gun range. I can attest to the physical and psychological toll that hearing war-like gunfire for 8-12 hours a day takes on the human body.

My workday is disrupted; I can't function under the daily barrage of AR-15s. I leave my home when it gets unbearable. The students at the four schools in the vicinity of the Cranston range don't have that luxury. They are told, "Numb yourself. Get used to it."

On November 14, 2023, Brown University, School of Public Health presented—in a public forum—the hard data. The noise pollution from the gunfire is at decibel levels which causes deafness, hypertension, and heart disease. **Please see the graphics attached.** The entire report can be read at: <https://bit.ly/Brown-SPH-Cranston-Gunfire-Study>

What else needs to be said?

I plead with you—vote in favor of bill H-7051. Allow this bill to move forward. Thousands of lives are being held in the balance, including mine.

Respectfully Yours,



Martha DiMeo

P.S. Experience What It's Like to Live in a War Zone: <https://bit.ly/gunfire-at-cranston-schools>

READ THE FULL REPORT:

<https://bit.ly/Brown-SPH-Cranston-Gunfire-Study>

BROWN UNIVERSITY– School of Public Health Research Study

The Gunfire Noise is Loud Enough to Cause Hearing Loss–According To the CDC

According to the CDC, prolonged exposure to noise above 70 dBA can cause hearing damage, meaning that, during times of peak shooting, the gunfire noise is loud enough to cause hearing damage to Cranston residents, especially those closer to the range.¹⁰ The CDC additionally notes that the typical response after routine or repeated exposure to noises in the 70-85 dBA range is mild to great annoyance, emotions Cranston residents frequently experience.

READ THE STUDY HERE: <https://bit.ly/Brown-SPH-Cranston-Gunfire-Study>

BROWN UNIVERSITY– School of Public Health Research Study

The Chronic Health Impact: Hypertension and Heart Disease

How can an emotional response lead to acute and chronic health impacts?

Once noise disrupts the mood, it sets off a "fight or flight" response. In the short run, your body experiences increased heart rate, sweating, and rushes of adrenaline. In the long-run, this extended bodily response could lead to the manifestation of a variety of negative health outcomes, such as hypertension and heart disease.

READ THE STUDY HERE: <https://bit.ly/Brown-SPH-Cranston-Gunfire-Study>