

From: Melissa Carden <melissa@ricagv.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:05 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 7501

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony of Melissa Carden, Executive Director

RI Coalition Against Gun Violence

Rhode Island House – Judiciary Committee Hearing

February 27, 2024

Dear Chairman Craven and Judiciary Committee Members:

I am writing in support of Representative Potter's House Bill 7051, which prohibits the operation of an outdoor gun range within one mile or closer of any K-12 school. Although the coalition's priorities remain secure storage and an assault weapons ban, we felt it was important to support this bill.

As a state coalition that advocates for gun safety policies and programs, we are compelled to stand up for the parents who are being traumatized and the children being desensitized by daily exposure to gunfire.

We are failing the more than 2,000 children who attend school within 500 yards of a police shooting range in Cranston, RI.

An excerpt from the Dec. 20, 2023 issue of the New York Times article on the topic:

For Antonella Pasquariello, a mother of three, one memory of school pickup time plays like a slow-motion movie in her head: She pulled up in her car, rolled down her window and watched as “cute little kids are strolling out of the school, not flinching, as the sound of artillery whacked up against the building.”

She glanced at the bus lines and tennis courts to “make sure bodies weren’t falling.”

Haunted by the experience, she wrote to the superintendent asking why the shooting couldn’t be banned during school hours. She was referred to the mayor, who replied that it would “take time and financing.”

Link to full article here, which we highly recommend reading -

https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/20/health/gun-range-school.html?unlocked_article_code=1.YU0.XSIY.h9of0Enavw1z&smid=url-share

It's not impossible to do this. The city of New Haven did it and the city of Cranston can, too. The health of our neighbors and children is well worth the investment. Would you want to live in this neighborhood? I encourage the committee to vote yes on HB 7501.

Thank you.

Melissa Carden

265 Oxford Street

Providence

--

Melissa Carden, Executive Director
Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence
melissa@ricagv.org



[Web](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Instagram](#)