

Roberta DiMezza

From: Melissa Carden <melissa@ricagv.org>
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Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 7216

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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 Boylan’s House Bill 7216, which is a bill that will help law enforcement solve crimes. Although as a coalition our two priority bills remain secure storage and an assault weapons ban, we felt it was important to testify on behalf of this bill.

The bill requires law enforcement to use the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN). NIBIN is a system that allows federal, state, and local law enforcement to match fired cartridge casings to the guns from which they were fired, making it easier for law enforcement to connect multiple crime scenes and catch shooters. Use of NIBIN generates leads that can indicate that the recovered casings were likely fired from the same firearm. Through comparison of a test-fired casing from a recovered firearm, NIBIN also allows the matching of an image from a recovered casing, linking the recovered firearm to the shooting. The system takes ballistic evidence from firearms (think unique fingerprinting but for cartridge casings) and cross-references that evidence with other evidence residing in the database, looking for likely matches. This allows investigators to develop a more complete picture of what happened and who was involved. **This is a sophisticated crime solving tool.**

As a coalition of advocates who promote gun safety policies and programs in the state of Rhode Island, we ask you to support HB 7216.

Thank you.

Melissa Carden

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Providence

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