

**TO:** Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Carston Maher

**RE:** Support: H 7373 Secure Storage Oppose: H 7217 Assault Weapons Ban

**DATE:** 3/4/24

Sent via email to [HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov](mailto:HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov)

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee: My name is Carston Maher, and I am a student at Brown University.

I am writing to urge you to support common-sense gun safety bills that will make all Rhode Islanders safer, while also not excessively limiting individuals abilities. As gun violence devastates communities across our nation, we must do everything we can here in Rhode Island to prevent gun homicides, suicides, and injuries.

With the wide array of issues our country faces regarding gun violence it is crucial that common sense actions are taken. Enforcing basic gun safety is a clear necessary step in advancing gun legislation.

Simultaneously, it is important to consider educated and practical gun legislation. Taking steps to limit ownership of certain firearms and other weapons without consideration for the practical implications. Measures like H 7217 have seen minimal if any impact for states like California, Colorado, and New York.

In this session, I urge you to prioritize support for:

- H 7373 (Caldwell), which would require require all firearms to be stored securely when not being carried and promote efforts to educate gun owners, parents, and students about the benefits of secure gun storage

And prioritize opposition for:

- H 7217 (Knight), which would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons, while providing a pathway for current owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they currently have.

Considering a balanced approach to firearms legislation will promote a safer future for Rhode Islanders while simultaneously protecting the rights of individuals.

Sincerely,

Carston Maher