

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** scott . <scott@rigunworks.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Roberts, Sherry  
**Subject:** Opposition to House Bills 7217, 7269  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Chairman Craven, First Vice Chair Hagan-McEntee and Second Vice Cahir Knight and Committee members,

My name is Scott Marcotte

I have owned and operated a Gunsmith services business, RI Gunwork's and Trading Post in Coventry for just over one year now. I testified before you last year. I have been a Firefighter/Paramedic for 32 years, an ER nurse for 10 of those years working at RI Hospital, Kent, Landmark, Boston Medical Center and Massachusetts General ER's and a few others as a travel ER nurse. I emphasized last year and again this year: Its not a lawful gunowner problem we are facing. It is a mental health crisis of enormous proportions. The resources are over burdened and under funded and under prioritized.

In regards to House Bill 7217: Assault Weapons: I oppose the passage: You will create an administrative mess for lawful firearms owners, FFL dealers like myself, the Attorney Generals office, and local ATF agents. As of now, the AG's office has a hard time interpreting the last set of anti-gun laws without referring someone like myself to a lawyer for answers and interpretations. You are trying to make law abiding citizens felon's over a firearms cosmetic features. Please read the history of the 1994 assault weapons ban. There were loop holes and work arounds that made it essentially ineffective.

Please focus your efforts on supporting mental health initiatives, and focus your efforts on safe gun storage for people in crisis, access to mental health practitioner's and metal health resources. Every mass shooting that has been national news worthy, that person had shown signs of mental health crisis, untreated or not intervened on, and the outcome was a tragic event and loss of life.

In regards to House Bill 7269: I oppose the passage. Prohibition of purchases of more than one firearm in any 30 day period: As a small business owner who employs a staff of a gunsmith, administrative assistant and myself, this would be detrimental to my business and being able stay open, provide income for the three of us and pay our sales taxes. Please focus on enforcing current laws in place. Many of my customers buy more than one firearm per month to add to their collections, enhance their sporting abilities or purchase an estate collection from a dealer, or transfer ownership on the passing of a loved one.. You again are punishing law abiding citizens for the few if any person who is nefariously purchasing more than one gun per month. You will also be losing sales tax revenue.

Firearm owners are a diverse group of individuals from students to seniors that identify as members of varied racial and ethnic groups, genders, and orientations all united to preserve their rights. The 2nd Amendment does not discriminate. Firearm owners include veterans, single parents, business owners, union members, hunters, competitors, and law-abiding citizens that have the right to protect themselves and their families. Firearm owners are a valuable resource to all Rhode Islanders. We invest in our youth, are stewards of the environment, and contribute significantly to the local economy.

Scott Marcotte

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