

TO: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Caleb Schultz

RE: Support: H 7373 Secure Storage, H 7217 Assault Weapons Ban

DATE: March 13, 2024

Sent via email to HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Caleb Schultz, and I am a Barrington resident in District 67 under Representative Knight. I am also a current sophomore at Brown University.

I am writing to urge you to support common-sense gun safety bills that will make all Rhode Islanders safer. 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.

Gun violence prevention has been an important part of my life since I was 13 when my mom would take me to bill hearings here at the Rhode Island State House and bring me to rallies across the state. Growing up, I saw appalling news again and again of mass shootings on TV, hid under desks and in closets for school shootings drills, and heard the stories of survivors of gun violence who had been through unimaginable and horrifying experiences. 7 years later, some of my friends have had personal experience with gun violence and there have been countless more firearm deaths across the country.

I hope our state, the one I have grown up in for the past 18 years, can recognize the need to prevent the gruesome acts of gun violence that occur in Rhode Island and serve as a leader for other states across the country by voting on life-saving legislation.

Specifically, 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
- 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.

These bills will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms – which are commonplace in mass shootings – in our communities and also save lives by preventing firearm suicide, gun theft, unintentional shootings, and unauthorized access to guns by helping ensure that secure storage becomes the norm across Rhode Island.

Please pass these bills out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Caleb Schultz