

Roberta DiMezza

From: donna ray <djay46@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 4:09 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Support of House Bills H7373 and H7217

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Donna Ray
46 baycliff drive
East Greenwich

March 5, 2024

RE: Support of House Bills H7373 and H7217

Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary:

My name is Donna ray, I live in Warwick and my Representative is Mark McKenny. I am a volunteer with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence.

I'm here in support of Rep. Caldwell's secure storage bill, 7373, and Rep. Knight's assault weapons ban, 7217.

I support these bills because I value the health and safety of all Rhode Islanders. I support the Safe storage bill that will protect children from accidentally causing harm and unauthorized people from accessing them. I believe it will also help those contemplating suicide in limiting access and giving them time to access mental health services. I support the assault weapons ban because those guns have no place in civilian hands. We here in RI have been lucky so far in that we haven't had any mass casualty events yet, but we are only that, lucky. Do any of our representatives really want to be on record opposing this ban on the day after a mass shooting?

I also believe in the following points.

Gun violence is a public health epidemic in the US. No other developed country lives like we do, in fear of gun violence in our malls, movie theaters, places of worship, schools, restaurants and more.

Research shows that states with stricter gun laws have lower levels of gun violence, and we must be doing all we can to keep our families and communities safe.

Gun violence is the #1 killer of children and teens in our country and that is beyond unacceptable.

If more guns made us safer, we'd be the safest country in the world. Instead the US has a gun homicide rate that is 26 times higher than that of other high-income countries.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation. We know the majority of Rhode Islanders and the majority of legislators support these life saving bills. It is time to vote these bills out of committee and send them to the floor.

Sincerely,
Donna Ray