

Douglas R. Victor

103 Princeton Avenue, Providence, RI 02907

March 5, 2024

Re: Support of House Bills H7373 and H7217

Dears Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary:

As Chair of the Elmwood and South Providence Neighborhoods Crime Watch, I stand with the Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence in support of Representative Caldwell's secure storage bill, 7373, and Representative Knight's assault weapons ban, 7217.

We have random shots fired frequently in the Southside. Just this past week at the corner of Updike and Moore. Two years ago, two houses on my block were shot. The police are constantly seizing unregistered firearms from the Southside streets, often associated with after hour nightclub activity.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas R. Victor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end.