

Ellen A. Kellner
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02814

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Re: Support for House Bills H7373 and H7217

To: Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee

I live in Glocester RI and am represented by The Honorable Michael Chippendale. I have been a volunteer with the Rhode Island Coalition against gun violence since the massacre at Sandy Hook School on Dec. 14, 2012. My grandson was 6 years old at that time and I could completely empathize with the horror the Sandy Hook community experienced losing 20 children and 6 adults on that tragic day. Thus, I was compelled to take an active stance against the proliferation of guns in Rhode Island.

There have been 394 school shootings since Columbine in 1999 and over 300,000 children have experienced gun violence in schools. Add to that all the lives lost and people injured when shot in grocery stores, theaters, festivals, parades, churches, synagogues and mosques.

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Gun Violence represents 50 partner organizations, all of whom join us in supporting common sense gun laws. Polls show that 70.5% of Rhode Island citizens favor banning assault weapons and 74.8% favor requiring safe storage. With such commanding public support I implore you to pass these two bills out of committee onto the House floor where they are guaranteed to pass. It is a travesty that we are surrounded by states that have banned assault weapons and yet our General Assembly leadership is still in the iron grip of the gun lobby. I beseech the House Judiciary Committee to vote in favor of these two bills and release them to the House for a full vote by its members. It is the morally right stand to make our state safer.

Sincerely yours,

Ellen A. Kellner