

## Roberta DiMezza

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**From:** Jonathan Daly-LaBelle <jdlsocori@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024 10:52 AM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Support for H 7373 and H 7217

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

Please make this the year you allow a vote on House bills for safe gun storage (H 7373) and an assault weapons ban (H 7217). Both are common sense proposals that would take significant steps to improve gun safety and reduce gun violence in our communities.

All the murders by guns are a blight on our society and affect our communities terribly. In particular, the mass murders are horrific. The killings in Newtown CT in 2012 woke us up somewhat. Seeing that level of danger and violence so close by reminded Rhode Islanders that we are not immune from that type of tragedy happening to us. Some sensible legislation has been passed, but more is needed.

May it be that the mass murders a few months ago in Lewiston, Maine - again, so close by - serve as an impetus to move along the initiatives of the reasonable gun regulation movement.

I am a supporter of Sisters of Mercy, and their calls for nonviolent societies here and around the world. Their email to supporters alerted me of the importance of being in touch with you today in advance of your crucially important hearing tomorrow. I am also a supporter of Moms Demand Action and RI Coalition Against Gun Violence.

All of these organizations' work is so important and so badly needed in this world today. We should be endeavoring to improve societal templates. Part of that is crafting ways to improve interactions between people. That is true here in RI, the northeast, across the US, and around the world.

Sadly the US is one of the most violent countries in the world - <https://www.healthdata.org/news-events/insights-blog/acting-data/gun-violence-united-states-outlier>.

And also the country that manufactures and sells the most weaponry around the world - [https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/fs\\_2403\\_at\\_2023.pdf](https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/fs_2403_at_2023.pdf).

Much of the violence we see in countries south of us is a negative result of our actions - <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/us-must-stem-iron-river-guns-flowing-latin-america-activists-say-2023-04-18/>

I am a resident of Westerly, a consistent voter and activist. My current state representative is Sam Azzinaro.

Jonathan Daly-LaBelle