

To: Chair Craven and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Madeline Labriola, 54 Beach St., Westerly, RI 02891

Re: Support: H 7373. H 7217

Dear Chair Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Madeline Labriola. I live in Westerly RI and my Representative is Sam Azzinaro.

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.

I am a member of Pax Christi Rhode Island, a Catholic faith based organization that is very concerned about the increase in violence in our society especially as it affects children and young adults. As a grandmother I am advocating for the safety of my grandchildren and all the children who live within our borders. I support The Sisters of Mercy who are also advocates for these bills.

Specifically I urge you to prioritize Support for: H7373 (Caldwell), which would require all firearms to be stored securely when not under the control of their owner or another authorized user and promote efforts to educate gun owners, parents and students about the benefits of secure gun storage. Bill H7217 (Knight) would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, 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 common place 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 common-sense gun safety bills out of committee and to the house floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,
Madeline Labriola