



State of Rhode Island

Department of State | Office of the Secretary of State

Gregg M. Amore, Secretary of State

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr., Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

RE: In support of H7373, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Weapons &
H7217, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Assault Weapons

Dear Chair Craven,

I write this letter in strong support of House Bill 7373, legislation that would require the safe storage of firearms, and House Bill 7217, legislation that bans the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons. I thank Representative Caldwell and Representative Knight for taking action and introducing these bills.

Our country is divided by political opinions at a time when immediate action is needed to safeguard and protect our kids. These commonsense gun safety legislative proposals are crucially needed in our state to keep our communities safe.

As an educator for over thirty years, it pains me that we have normalized lockdown drills and the fear it instills in our students. We have accepted that needless acts of violence are common and frequent because assault weapons are easily available. Access to military-style weapons has made shootings deadlier and has increased the tragedy that families and communities across the country are experiencing.

We cannot stand idly by and continue watching these shootings happen in our churches, synagogues, schools, festivals, and banks. Legislation to require the safe storage of firearms is imperative to help prevent accidental shootings and suicides. We cannot allow guns to get into the hands of our children or people who should not have them.

I urge the members of the Committee to support House Bill 7373 and House Bill 7217, as we should do everything in our power to keep our children safe. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
The Honorable Justine Caldwell
The Honorable Jason Knight