

Roberta DiMezza

From: Chris Morin <cmorin543@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 3, 2024 11:15 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: House Bill No. 7217

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Dear Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

I am writing to you not only as a concerned citizen but also as a proud member of the Rhode Island Army National Guard, to express my profound opposition to the proposed "Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban of 2024." This legislation, from my perspective, imposes unreasonable restrictions on law-abiding citizens and is in stark contradiction to the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*. The Bruen ruling underscores that laws regulating Second Amendment rights must be deeply rooted in the text, history, and tradition of our nation, a standard that this bill fails to meet by seeking to heavily regulate firearms that are in common use.

It is critical to recognize that the firearms targeted by this bill, especially those styled like the AR-15, are among the most popular in the United States, evidenced by the over 23 million AR-15 style rifles in civilian hands as reported by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. These numbers reflect not only the widespread use but also the integral role these firearms play in the American tradition of lawful gun ownership for defense, sport, and recreation.

The attempt to classify and restrict such commonly used firearms under the proposed legislation contradicts the Supreme Court's guidance in Bruen and overlooks the practical reality of these firearms' place in American society. Moreover, as someone who serves in the Rhode Island Army National Guard, I am acutely aware of the importance of responsible firearm use and ownership. The bill's approach to penalizing lawful owners of these widely used firearms, through severe penalties and a burdensome registration process, is disproportionate and disregards the constitutional rights affirmed by the Supreme Court.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of this bill, with respect to the Bruen decision and the impact on millions of law-abiding citizens, including members of the military community who responsibly own and use these firearms. Our laws should enhance public safety while respecting our constitutional rights and the traditions that support them.

Thank you for considering my position on this critical issue.

Very Respectfully,

