



TO: House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Emma Newbery and Stephanie Hague on behalf of the Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island

DATE: March 12th, 2024

RE: Testimony in support of **H-7217**

Dear Chairman Craven and Committee Members,

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island strongly supports H-7217 which would ban the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons and invoke civil or criminal penalties for violators.

The Jewish Alliance of Greater Rhode Island serves to enrich the quality of life for the approximately 20,000 Jews in Rhode Island and is committed to translating Jewish tradition and values into action. All our work is guided by our core values, including *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world, and *Hineni*, standing with others so no one stands alone. October 27, 2023, marked the fifth anniversary of the nation's deadliest antisemitic attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. Among the weapons used to murder 11 innocent worshipers in the synagogue was an AR-15 assault rifle, purchased legally by the gunman. While this tragedy happened miles from Rhode Island, it sent a deep tremor through Jewish communities everywhere, and undergirds our fervent support for a total ban on the possession, sale, and transfer of all such weapons in our state from this point forward. The Jewish community is committed to supporting all Rhode Islanders in their pursuit of a fulfilling, healthy, and successful life, and this bill would provide our communities with the vital safeguards to ensure peace and security for all.

Thank you,

Stephanie Hague

Chief Policy Officer

Emma Newbery

Policy Manager