

**Roberta DiMezza**

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**From:** Mike Luciano <luckymike17@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 11:03 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** FW: 2024 -- H 7217

**Importance:** High

**To House Judiciary Administrator,**

Please include this email expressing my opposition as stated below.

**I am writing to state my opposition to House bill H7217.**

First, there is no such thing as an “assault weapon”. The term “Assault weapon” is a made-up term to evoke an emotional response through the media and the public. Contrary to leftists’ myth, the label “AR” has to do with the first model introduced by the company Armalite Rifle several years ago.

Second, none of the features listed in this bill make a firearm more dangerous. The features make many sporting and self-protection firearms illegal. Good examples of mislabeled features are the threaded barrel and magazine outside of the grip. Restricting these feature restrictions would make a collectible relic like “Broom Handled” Mauser from before the WWII illegal. It would also make high end .22 caliber target pistols like a Walther GSP illegal. GSP pistols (also available in .32 caliber) start at over \$2,500 and are not the likely choice of street criminals. Pardini target pistols is another example of a high-end target pistol that would be made illegal by this bill. A threaded barrel has no impact on the firearm, other than allowing for the attachment of compensators, flash hidere, etc. which only aid the user of the firearm. Flash hidere do not hide the flash from others, but they do direct the flash outward so that a user is not blinded. Pistol grips provide control, which is a positive feature when considering you want added control of a firearm. Handguards provide safer handling to the user and in many cases allow the user to add sights and grips for added control and safety. Outlawing a semi-automatic rifle with a bayonet lug will outlaw an M1 “Garand” rifle, which is a piece of history that is collected and mostly used in shooting competitions today.

There was a 10-year ban on so-called “assault weapons” at the federal level and it was dropped because it was proven to be ineffective. Above all, the ban on certain firearms because they are deemed “weapons of war” or “inappropriate” has already been ruled as

being contrary to the spirit and intent of the Constitution by the courts, so this type of bill/law will most certainly be challenged.

I'm also curious to know that if the sale, transfer, or possession of a so-called "assault weapon" is so bad, how would the registration of a so-called "assault weapon" make it safer or save lives?

In June of 2021, a federal judge overturned California's three-decade ban on assault weapons on Friday, arguing that it violates the Second Amendment's right to bear arms. California prohibited the sale of assault weapons in 1989. In his ruling, U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez of San Diego described the 30-year ban as a "failed experiment" and compared an AR-15 to a Swiss Army knife.

**This bill is a solution, looking for a problem that does not exist.**

Here are statistics on long-gun deaths over the last several years.

In **Rhode Island**, according to figures<sup>13</sup> from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), annual **long gun homicides total**

2019: 0  
2018: 2  
2017: 0  
2016: 0  
2015: 1  
2014: 1  
2013: 1  
2012: 0  
2011: 0  
2010: 2  
2009: 0  
2008: 0  
2007: 0  
2006: 0  
2005: 1  
2004: 1  
2003: 0  
2002: 4  
2001: 1  
1996: 2  
1995: 1

Here are the numbers for 2019 compared to other states. Note that murder by Rifles and Shotguns are **zero**:

<https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-20>

**Let's talk about the elephant in the room:**

**Since the 2020 election, we have seen an unprecedented assault on the rights of free citizens in this country. Political opponents being jailed, and presidential candidates being persecuted by radical Soros-backed DA's and AG's. Democrats saw it happen in this state to a member of your own party.**

**The RADICAL PROGRESSIVE LEFT, calling themselves Democrats, financed by Soros, Bloomberg and the rest of the globalists, are DESTROYING THIS COUNTRY. I have faith that there are still REAL Democrats, who may have different views than mine on how to make our state and country great again, but I feel confident that these real Democrats still share goals like preserving freedom for law-abiding citizens.**

**I am asking REAL Democrats to stand up to the Progressive radicals and protect OUR rights. The RADICAL PROGRESSIVES keep saying that they are not out to take our firearms, as they continually work hard to erode rights in blue states across the country while allowing criminals to go unpunished. It is important that we work together against progressives who have been using communist-like tactics to destroy our liberties. OUR freedom depends on your willingness to stand up to the RADICAL LEFT.**

2024 -- H 7217

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- ASSAULT WEAPONS

Introduced By: Representatives Knight, Caldwell, Boylan, Dawson, Speakman, Craven, Batista, Felix, McEntee, and Ajello

Date Introduced: January 18, 2024

Referred To: House Judiciary

**Thank you,  
Michael Luciano  
26 Turner Ave  
Cranston, RI 02920**