

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

I live in Westerly, RI, and my Representative is Sam Azzinaro.

I 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 all we can in Rhode Island to prevent gun homicides, suicides, and injuries.

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; and 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 possess.

These bills will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly military style firearms — common weapons in mass shootings — in our communities and save lives by preventing firearm suicide, gun theft, accidental shootings, and unauthorized access to guns and ensuring that secure storage becomes the norm across Rhode Island.

Please pass common-sense gun safety bills out of committee to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey P. Serra

gpserra@cox.net