

From: Jennifer Paredes

RE: Support H 7373, H 7217

Sent via email to HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov

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

My name is Jennifer Paredes, I live in Barrington and my Representative is Jason Knight.

I am not an expert in guns or a lawyer specializing in policy, I am simply a mother with two teenage sons who attend school in Rhode Island. I am asking this committee to put the safety of the lives of Rhode Islanders above the right to own a military style assault weapon and the right to have easy access to guns. Gun violence has now become the number one killer of teens and adolescents in our country, not accidents or cancer, but guns. This committee has the power to help prevent a tragedy from happening in our state. The majority of Rhode Islanders want this. It is the duty of this committee to vote these bills out of committee and to the House floor for a vote.

Specifically, I urge you to prioritize support for:

- H 7373(Caldwell), which would require 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
- H 7217 (Knight), which would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons, while providing a pathway for current owners of assault weapons to keep the ones they currently have.

These bills will reduce the spread of exceptionally deadly, military-style firearms – which are commonplace in mass shootings – in our communities and also save lives by preventing firearm suicide, gun theft, unintentional shootings, and unauthorized access to guns by helping ensure that secure storage becomes the norm across Rhode Island. Please pass common-sense gun safety bills out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Paredes