



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
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Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.
Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
State House, House Lounge
Providence, RI 02903

Re: HB 5130: Crime Gun NIBIN tracing

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I write today to express support for HB 5130, sponsored by Representative Jennifer Boylan, legislation that would require all ballistic evidence be entered into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (known as “NIBIN”) database.

Protecting Rhode Islanders from the threat of gun violence is one of my top priorities as Attorney General. While there is no easy fix to the scourge of gun-related crimes scarring our communities, I have continued to advocate for more resources and coordinated strategies to focus our collective law enforcement efforts on the true drivers of violent crime and gun violence in Rhode Island. This legislation, consistent with my Office’s violent crime initiative, will provide a uniform approach to ballistics testing within the state – a crucial piece of our efforts.

Having already invested in two NIBIN machines and training for law enforcement and crime lab personnel, this essential forensic science legislation will only enhance the utilization of NIBIN without any further financial impact on the state. We have seen firsthand the advantages of NIBIN tracing in helping law enforcement solve violent crimes by linking ballistic evidence. In fact, NIBIN has already proved its value in solving the recent murder case of 24-year old Miya Brophy-Baermann, and it was through NIBIN that we identified the recent State Crime Laboratory error.

It is important to note that NIBIN is used only for criminal investigations and does not capture or store ballistic information acquired at the point of manufacture, importation, or sale of a firearm or bullet. Further, the system does not store any names or personally identifiable information associated with the ballistics data captured. Rather, NIBIN is a key tool in the fight against gun violence even as it protects firearm owners’ privacy. I strongly support efforts that encourage law enforcement’s use of NIBIN so that we may direct our prosecutorial resources to the individuals who are driving violent crime.

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Page 2

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation and am available for any further questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,



Peter F. Neronha
Attorney General