

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Edward T. Rotella, 54 Irons Ave, Apt 8, Johnston, RI 02919, am opposed to the proposed bill below.

The proposed H-5436 bill sounds like a safety win, but dig deeper—it has serious flaws and has nothing to do with safety.

1. **5th Amendment Trouble:** It bans transferring firearms in estates, slashing their value without compensation. The Constitution says that's a "taking"—and heirs could sue.
2. **Probate Nightmares:** The bill's wording could mean pricey legal battles to transfer firearms after someone passes, often costing more than the gun's worth.
3. **Way Beyond "Assault Rifles":** This isn't just about military-style guns—it will ban ~74% of all firearms with detachable magazines, and any revolver or handgun weighing over 50oz. empty, which many have legally owned for over a century.
4. **Clashes with RI Law:** Rhode Island has banned gun registration since 1959 (R.I.G.L. 11-47-41). This bill breaks that rule.
5. **Self-Defense at Risk:** The Supreme Court (Castle Rock v. Gonzales, 2005) says police don't have to protect you. This bill could leave law-abiding Rhode Islanders defenseless against armed criminals.
6. **Misleading Spin:** Polls push the idea this only targets "military weapons," but it hits most firearms. True military guns are already banned!

**The Bottom Line:** H-5436 won't save lives—it'll disarm responsible Rhode Islanders who've passed strict training and background checks. Is this really about safety or control? Tell the committee to ditch this bill!

Once again,

I am OPPOSED to the above BILL H-5436

Respectfully,

Edward T. Rotella