

Roberta DiMezza

From: James Gault <jamesagault@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 9:22 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Testimony for opposition to H5436 Proposed Assault Weapons Ban

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed firearms ban. While I understand and respect the desire to reduce violence, I believe this legislation will not achieve that goal and may, in fact, create unintended consequences that harm law-abiding citizens while failing to address the root causes of crime.

Research consistently shows that legally owned firearms are rarely used in violent crime. A 2019 Department of Justice report found that 90% of firearms used in crimes were obtained illegally, not from lawful owners or retailers (Source: *Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Source and Use of Firearms Involved in Crimes"*). Additionally, a 2004 National Institute of Justice study on the prior federal assault weapons ban concluded there was no clear evidence that it meaningfully reduced crime (Source: *National Institute of Justice, "An Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban"*).

Instead of restricting constitutional rights, we should focus on evidence-based solutions: improving mental health services, addressing socioeconomic factors that drive violence, and enforcing existing laws against those who misuse firearms. Research from the RAND Corporation's Gun Policy in America initiative has found stronger enforcement of existing laws—such as prosecuting straw purchasers—can be more effective at reducing gun violence than outright bans (Source: *RAND Corporation, "The Science of Gun Policy"*).

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and work toward policies that enhance public safety without infringing on the rights of responsible citizens. I'd welcome the opportunity to discuss solutions that balance safety with constitutional freedoms.

Banning firearms to prevent criminals from committing crime is like putting up a "No Trespassing" sign to stop a burglar — those who break the law aren't stopped by more laws, and not only that but it also disarms law-abiding citizens. I urge you to consider opposition to this bill that infringes on constitutional rights, state laws, and makes our community less safe.

Sincerely,

James A. Gault