

Anabella Mayorga

From: Woonsocket Sportsman <wsclub.ri@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 8:51 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Woonsocket Sportsman's Club opposes H5436

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Members of the Judiciary,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 200 members of the Woonsocket Sportsman's Club to express our opposition to the "assault weapon" ban bill H5436.

While it may sound like a noble endeavor to outlaw weapons used to "assault" others, let's call the bill what it clearly is- a ban on nearly all modern and popular firearms. And to boot, the very term "assault weapon" is a pejorative applied to bias an uninformed persons opinion against commonly owned and popular firearms owned by everyday people

Semiautomatic firearms are neither new nor uncommon. In all categories of rifles, pistols and shotguns, a semiautomatic operating mechanism is the most popular and has been for many years according to industry data. Detachable magazines are also now new or unusual and are the most common and convenient method of reloading most semiautomatic firearms.

The list of cosmetic and functional features such as pistol grips and adjustable buttstocks which make a gun an "assault weapon" are the same exact features that make certain firearms ideal training tools when safely introducing new shooters to the sport. The pistol grip has certain ergonomic advantages in safely controlling the firearm, and adjustable buttstocks allow people of different shape and stature to comfortably use a firearm.

Additionally, the "threaded muzzle" is a common and popular feature on many popular firearms these days, and is common on many models of firearms that aren't semiautomatic as well. The threaded muzzle serves as an attachment point for recoil reducing accessories which are very popular with many folks who don't enjoy recoil.

As an avid shooter and certified instructor, I frequently take new shooters to the range. After getting a new shooter comfortable and when they begin to enjoy the satisfaction of confidently hitting their target, they are often shocked when I tell them the very ergonomic and modern featured firearm they are enjoying is a dreaded "assault weapon". Those people I've been able to take to the range may have previously thought "assault weapons" were scary guns that only gang members and the crazed fringe of society would own, but are shocked to learn it will primarily affect regular people who enjoy modern and popular semiautomatic firearms for a variety of legal uses.

Finally, while this bill would allow registration of "assault weapons" currently possessed, it prevents any legal gun owner from ever owning any new firearm with disqualifying features in the future. That means legal Rhode Island gun owners will be shut out from owning new models of firearms that citizens in most other states will still be able to own and enjoy.

I also feel for the younger generations of future gun owners who will be blocked from legal ownership of any of modern or popular firearms by this bill.

The members of Woonsocket Sportsman's Club strongly oppose this bill and ask that you consider our views.

Jason Dubois
President
Woonsocket Sportsman's Club