

March 26, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H5436

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Dr. Jennifer Hosmer and I live in Cranston, and my Representative is Joseph McNamara. I am also a member of the RI Coalition Against Gun Violence.

I am here tonight in support of Representative Knight's **Assault Weapons Regulation bill, H5436**. This bill will reduce the number of deadly, military-style firearms in our communities and it will serve to keep us safer.

I have been a practicing physician with an additional degree in public health for 36 years and it is clear to me that gun violence is a public health crisis. In June of 2024, then-U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy issued an advisory declaring gun violence to be a public health priority calling for an evidence-based approach to public health change as well as a ban on assault weapons.

In my role as an Obstetrician/Gynecologist, the issue of gun violence is personal. Women, **my patients**, disproportionately experience intimate partner violence, and the presence of firearms within those relationships is a key factor for intimate partner homicide. New data has revealed that **homicide** is the second leading cause of injury-related deaths among pregnant and post-partum women, and the majority (55 %) of these homicides are carried out with firearms. These are completely **preventable** maternal deaths. Researchers further examined the impact of firearm legislation on maternal deaths and found a 20%-30% reduction in firearm-related deaths and homicides in states that had enacted such laws.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of this important legislation. Pregnant and postpartum Rhode Islanders deserve to live free from gun violence. It is time to vote this bill out of committee and send it to the House Floor with a recommendation of passage.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hosmer, MD, MPH

