

## Ariana Costa

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**From:** John Francis <compshooting@cox.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025 5:15 PM  
**To:** House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to H-5436

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

My name is John Francis and I am the owner of Competition Shooting Supplies in Pawtucket RI. I have been involved in the gun industry since 1992 and I am a NRA certified instructor for pistol and personal protection in the home. I am also an NRA certified Range Safety Officer.

I am writing today to oppose H-5436 "Assault Weapons". This bill is egregious and overreaching. There is NO official government definition of "assault weapon" of any kind. The term originated in the 1980's from a anti-gun group formerly known as Handgun Control Inc. They dreamed it up to confuse semi auto firearms with machineguns, which are already banned. The definitions for shotguns, rifles & handguns were written so broadly, that many conventional semi-auto firearms (and possibly revolvers), outside the AR-15/AK47 style would also be banned. This includes common semi-auto firearms for defense, hunting, competition and general target shooting. This would potentially eliminate over 85-90% of the firearms that I sell every month. Losing the ability to sell these firearms would devastate my small business. The gun industry and shooting sports bring in over \$300 million dollars a year into the RI economy from income, sales & excise taxes and fees. The state can ill afford to lose this income.

Other sections of the bill, such as page 2, lines 33-34 would outlaw the manufacture, sale & possession of spare parts that "could be used in assembling a so-called "assault weapon". This would turn most gun owners into felons overnight for simply possessing basic repair parts such as firing pins, springs, etc. that commonly wear out and break.

The registration is also a potential violation of 11-47-11 which already makes gov't registration illegal. The entire process put forth in the registration section is extremely burdensome and will simply not work. When CT passed a similar law back in 2013, there was over 85% non-compliance. The only reason for registration, is to force gun owners at some future point to turn those guns in under threat of huge fines and/or jail time.

The grandfather clause only gives a 6 month window for the family of the deceased to get the guns transferred out of their possession. Why are they not able to keep them? Probate courts can take well over a year to settle estates. More time would be needed for that. Not allowing the family to keep a collection that was attained over many years would absolutely be a "taking" under the constitution. They will have to forfeit them to the police or a dealer. Under these circumstances, NO dealer would pay anything for these guns being unable to resell them in RI.

This bill will also make it illegal to use any semi-auto for hunting and lawful concealed carry. Under the Use & possession section (Page 7, lines 1-21. No mention of, or exemption for use for hunting or lawful concealed carry is listed.

RI does not have a gun violence problem. We are one of the safest states in the country and our current gun laws work reasonably well. This bill and all the ones like it are simply de-facto gun bans. Nothing in this bill targets street criminals, only law-abiding gun owners. We have serious economic and infrastructure problems in our state, along with an out of control homeless population that no one seems to be doing anything about. I urge you to vote no on this bill and get to work solving the real problems facing our state today.

Regards,  
John Francis  
Competition Shooting Supplies