

House Judiciary Committee  
82 Smith St, Providence, RI 02903  
March 26, 2025

Re: Written testimony in support of H 5436 titled Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025

Date of Hearing: March 26, 2025

Dear Chairperson Craven and honorable members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Kathleen Layton from North Kingstown District 31. I am also the Rhode Island Moms Demand Action chapter president.

I urge you to support H 5436 (Knight), a bill that will would prohibit the future manufacture, sale, transfer, purchase, and possession of assault weapons, while also providing a pathway for current assault weapons' owners to keep the ones they currently have. Help Rhode Island reduce the spread of deadly, military-style firearms, which are common in mass shootings.

As a mother of three and a professional who works in a school, I am frustrated and feel unsafe living in a state that allows assault weapons. I envy friends who live in neighboring Connecticut and Massachusetts — not only because their states offer a higher minimum wage and schools score higher on standardized tests —but because they live in safer states that prohibit assault weapons.

According to a recent poll conducted by Fleming & Associates, two-thirds of Rhode Islanders support an assault weapons ban. Do not be fooled by gun zealots, Rhode Islanders want this and our strongest leaders, such as Governor Dan McKee, Attorney General Peter F. Neronha, Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos, and Secretary of State Gregg M. Amore support this lifesaving ban.

Please pass H 5436 (Knight), a common-sense gun safety bill, out of committee and to the House floor with a recommendation for passage. Rhode Islanders' lives are depending on it.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Layton

17 Pilgrim Drive  
North Kingstown, RI 02852  
District 31