

Ariana Costa

From: Samuel Turco <samturco33@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:57 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Opposition to Bills

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I am contacting you today to express my OPPOSITION to bills H5436, H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, and H5891. While I understand the concerns backing the legislation, the bills are an infringement of the Constitution, as well as federal and state law, and a violation of every law abiding Rhode Islander's rights, particularly in regards to H5436.

The recent New York State Rifle and Pistol Assoc. Inc. v. Bruen decision by the U.S. Supreme Court states that firearms in common use for lawful purposes are protected under the Second Amendment. The majority of the firearms targeted by this ban are commonly owned by responsible law abiding citizens and used in cases such as self-defense, sport shooting, and hunting.

H5436 would also be in violation of Rhode Island General Law Title 11-47-41 which explicitly states that "No government agency of this state or its political subdivisions shall keep or cause to be kept any list or register of privately owned firearms or any list or register of the owners of those firearms; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to firearms which have been used in committing any crime of violence, nor to any person who has been convicted of a crime of violence".

Beyond legal concerns, this ban could negatively impact minority groups in the state, disarming those who are facing an increase in racial and anti-semitic violence in recent years due to a recent change in the political climate. Many of my friends and colleagues who are part of these groups have voiced their concern of the ban, citing it will likely do more harm than good, or that there are more pressing matters that need attention in the state.

I urge you to consider what I've said, and to oppose these bills that I and many other gun owners also oppose.

Best Regards,

Samuel Turco

North Smithfield