

March 23, 2025

**Subject: Opposed: H5436, H5443, H5651, H5652, H5654, H5889, H5890, H5891**

**Support: H5935, H5936, H6042**

Chair Person Craven and House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing in opposition to and support of the above bills. While I would like to dissect each bill and share in detail why I oppose or support them, I know there will be many testifying who feel as I do so I will let those who may be better versed in firearms, statistics, and constitutional law convey my sentiments on the specifics of these bills.

As a somewhat new father, I want to share that I hope that you truly consider the long-term implications of H5436 and that we cannot control or know what the future will bring. We do not have to go back very far in our lifetime to see how true this is. A little over ten years ago, when early versions of this bill were first introduced, if someone brought up half the things that have happened the past few years they would be laughed out of the room. Election denying with protests and riots, government lockdowns, social unrest, vaccine mandates, a world teetering on the edge of WW3, and a political environment where opponents are no longer just moral opposition but are referred to as enemies. Just SOME of the once unimaginable circumstances that have created our current reality.

With that said, how could anyone be *certain* that upending a centuries old constitutional right will not only be best for us now but also for my children and their future kids, their kid's kids, and their kid's kids' kids? THAT is the gravity of your decision on H5436 as it not only infringes, but strips the right of future generations to arm themselves with a firearm reflective of their time. Even those who support this legislation cannot promise it will end mass shootings or reduce gun violence but what it WILL do is undermine the very purpose of the 2nd Amendment and make future generations susceptible to tyranny and foreign invasion. Who are we to strip their rights because it is politically expedient to just "do something" now?

I wish I had the answer to help prevent the atrocities committed with firearms. Personally, I think there are some good ideas on both sides but with neither side willing to budge and legislation and rhetoric becoming increasingly vindictive, I do not have much confidence there is desire to accomplish anything other than scoring campaign contributions.

I realize and am thankful that the thought of taking up arms due to foreign invasion or tyrannical abuse seems outlandish in our lifetime but the point I am trying to make is we can't predict the crises we will face, let alone those that my kids and future generations will endure. I implore you, please do not lose sight of this and know that your decisions on 2A matters today WILL determine the fate of liberty and freedom for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Samuel Vito- Foster, RI