

Stephanie Lujan Rickerman  
24 Edgewood Drive  
Barrington, RI 02806

March 23, 2025

RE: Support of House Bill H 5436,

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Stephanie Lujan Rickerman. I live in Barrington and my State Representative is Jennifer Boylan. I am a member of the RI Coalition Against Gun Violence. I am writing to voice strong support for Representative Knight's assault weapons regulation bill. This bill will reduce the number of deadly, military style firearms in our community and keep us safer. I also support Representative Fogarty's Bill H 5654 and Representative McEntee's Bill H 5651.

I have fired an M16 on the rifle ranges of Camp Perry, Ohio. I was on a rifle team in high school. My father, Lt. Col. Leo R Lujan was a beloved riflery instructor at Montgomery Bell Academy and Cape Cod Sea Camps. Briefly an NRA Board Member, he opposed assault rifles and promoted safety at all times. I support our constitutional right to own firearms and strongly oppose ownership of all assault weapons. There is absolutely no need for private citizens to own a weapon of mass destruction.

December 14, 2012 was the worst day of my life. Sandy Hook was to be our forever home. I loved Sandy Hook Elementary School. I had worked at the intermediary school and I was friends with first responders. I loved Vicki Soto the way a parent loves a person who believes in their child, protects them and builds them up. Our daughter admired Mary Sherlach for her kindness and wisdom. She called her "the problem solver." I watched in helpless horror as the aftermath was televised and I could not be there to look for children or comfort friends. On my mother's birthday in 2023, again I watched in horror as friends feared for their children, students at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee. And again, not far from my childhood home, a shooting at Antioch High School in January..

As a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, I assess clients for safety, for intent to harm themselves or others. And after every school shooting, there is an increase in the number of children and parents seeking support for their intense anxiety about attending school or sending their children to school. I am asking our legislature to keep us safe by banning the possession, sale and transfer of assault weapons.

Respectfully yours,

Stephanie Lujan Rickerman, MSN, PMHNP-BC