



March 26, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr.  
Chair, House Committee on Judiciary  
Rhode Island State House  
Providence, RI 02903

**RE: Support for H 5436 – The Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025**

Dear Chair Craven,

I am writing to you today in support of the Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025. This legislation is urgently needed to protect Rhode Islanders from the gun violence epidemic.

Assault weapons—generally high-velocity, semiautomatic firearms—allow shooters to fire more rounds of ammunition over a short period of time. These firearms were designed to inflict as much damage in as little time as possible; these weapons of war have no place on our streets or in our communities.

Research has shown that states with an assault weapon ban experience a lower chance of an active shooter event and that a federal assault weapon ban could reduce mass shooting deaths by 70%.<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island would join states such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York in taking action to ban assault weapons.

The passage of this bill is also an issue of equity. Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on communities of color: Black Americans are 10 times more likely than people of other races to die by gun homicide, and Black women are twice as likely to be fatally shot in an instance of domestic violence.<sup>2</sup>

We have the power to make positive change in Rhode Island and reduce the fatal impact of gun violence on all communities. I hope you will join me in supporting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabina Matos".

Sabina Matos  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Rhode Island

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<sup>1</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety. "Solutions: Prohibit Assault Weapons." [Prohibit Assault Weapons | Everytown | Everytown](#)

<sup>2</sup> Edmund, Marissa. "Gun Violence Disproportionately and Overwhelmingly Hurts Communities of Color." Center for American Progress. [Gun Violence Disproportionately and Overwhelmingly Hurts Communities of Color - Center for American Progress](#)