

Ariana Costa

From: MGC Treasurer <mgc.treasury@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 11:21 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: RE: H-5436 Assault Weapons Ban 2025, H-5654 Act Relating to Criminal Offenses 2025: Against Passage

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Chairman Craven and House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Paul Rego. I am the President/Treasurer of the Massasoit Gun Club, Inc, a law-abiding Rhode Island Gun Club that has been in East Providence for 86 years. We have trained many hundreds of young adults, as well as members of the Senior Citizen, LGBTQ+, Women's and other minority communities throughout those years, to be law abiding and respectful firearm owners and users. We teach safety, accuracy, and adherence to state and local laws in our basic, as well as advanced self protection courses, all aimed to help those sometimes most vulnerable protect themselves. We, as a club, strongly oppose H-5436, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2025. This bill unfairly targets firearms that all of our members, and thousands of others, have legally owned for years for self-defense, sport, and recreation. It does nothing to address crime while punishing responsible citizens like me. I urge you to vote against this overreaching legislation and protect our constitutional rights.

Additionally, we oppose the new 2025 H-5654 Act Relating to Criminal Offenses, which for no good reasons, stops out of state residents of Massachusetts like me, from having a RI LTC, and legally traveling into Rhode Island with our firearms carried for self defense. Having bordering states stop issuing licenses when travel from one end of one state to another involves going in and out of the neighboring state several times, is unfair and has no merit.

Whether you realize it or not, and I think that some of the legislators may, these bills would essentially put every gun club in the state, along with all gun stores, out of business. That would take away gun ranges where many local police officers train in their off hours, along with stopping all youth and vulnerable individual training programs which teach safety, self protection, and the respect for firearms from start to finish. The loss of jobs and tax revenues generated from the gun stores, clubs, and related businesses forced to close is another unintended consequence of these laws.

Sincerely,

Paul Rego