



 **WORKING FAMILIES POWER** 

Representative Robert Craven
House Judiciary Committee

March, 26, 2025

Support for H5436, H5433, H5652, H5890, and H5891

Chair Craven and Members of the Committee,

Rhode Island Working Families Power writes in strong support of H5436 to ban assault weapons in Rhode Island. We also support H5433, H5652, H5890, and H5891, which represent common gun safety measures that would help keep Rhode Islanders safe. Working Families Power advocates for policies that allow people to provide for themselves and their families and contribute to their communities. As we have seen many times in recent years, so many of these parts of life can be imperiled by gun violence — school, work, church, concerts and public transportation name just a handful of the sites of mass shootings in the past few years. In order for residents to learn, work, and worship, they have to first be safe

Rep. Knight's bill, H5436, would ban the possession, sale, and transfer of assault weapons in Rhode Island. Assault weapons have been used in numerous recent mass shootings, including those in Uvalde, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Las Vegas, and Orlando. A number of other states, including neighboring Massachusetts and Connecticut, have already enacted similar common-sense legislation. With Congress unable to renew a federal assault weapons ban, Rhode Island must step up to keep its residents safe.

Rep. Boylan's bills – H5433, H5652, H5890 – and Rep. Ajello's bill, H5891, also represent common sense gun safety measures. Creating a process for an individual's gun rights to be temporarily suspended and precluding a person convicted of a hate crime from possessing a firearm would help prevent some of the tragedies we have seen across the country, as would

restricting firearms purchases by persons convicted of a felony or who are under eighteen years of age.

These bills represent tangible steps that Rhode Island can take to reduce gun violence and help prevent loss of life in mass shootings so that residents can safely learn, work, worship and participate in the lives of their communities. We hope the legislature will move them forward so they can be enacted into law.

Thank you,

Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler

Progressive Governance Director
Rhode Island Working Families Power