

Roberta DiMezza

From: John Francis <compshooting@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:58 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Please OPPOSE H5436A 2025 AWB

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Dear Judiciary Committee Members,

I have read the revised bill. Here are my issues:

Page 1 Line 15. Just like the previous version, this will ban commonly bought/owned target & hunting semi auto shotguns that hold six or more rounds in the mag tube.

Page 2 Lines 32 -33 along with page 3 line 1. The exemption for target pistols says only those approved by the Olympic committee and USA Shooting. They left out the exemption for the ones used in events governed by the National Rifle Association (NRA) & the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) which are the governing bodies for the non-Olympic events here in the United States. Also, I still don't see any change in the language that would protect most of the popular, basic styles of semi-auto pistols in the market place that I and other dealers in RI sell on a daily basis.

Page 4 Line 7-9. I may be wrong, but it appears to put forth an assumption of guilty until YOU prove your innocent. There are references throughout the bill that essentially say that without the "Certificate of Possession", you are presumed to be GUILTY

Page 5 Line 21 "Voluntary certificate of possession". The entire section in my opinion is anything but "voluntary". My interpretation of the wording is unless you have that certificate, you won't be able to legally prove you owned the gun/s before the effective date. Also, under the grandfather section, if the deceased owner didn't get those certificates, the family can't legally keep/transfer the guns. It doesn't say whether you have to do just one or multiple fingerprint checks for each gun. It also doesn't list what exactly the process will entail. Just like with CCW permit/gun purchase applications, the dept's will likely make it up as they go. I firmly believe some dept's might require you to leave the gun/s with them until they clear you for ownership. There is also no guarantee that the police will not retain the info. A few years back, a current House rep commented on the Matt Allen radio show that he personally knew of 3 police departments that were illegally keeping copies of firearm purchase applications in direct defiance of state law. He refused to identify those dept's when Matt Allen asked him to. I am not convinced in any way that a number of dept's would not do the same with these certificate applications. In a nutshell, I consider the "voluntary" certificate section to be a giant legal trap for gun owners.

Page 6 "Use and possession of grandfathered weapons". I see no lawful use mentioned for hunting or concealed carry. Just because it isn't mentioned, means it would be legal for those activities. It essentially says you can only use your stuff on a target range or some type of exhibition (there are no gun shows in RI, Lol) or an educational project that is conducted/approved by law enforcement or the State of RI (something I have never, ever heard of).

Page 7 Line 20. Takes effect upon passage. What does that really mean?? Does that mean that after July 1st of 2025, I can no longer sell/transfer any existing inventory affected or handle any Internet transfers? Or, will I and the rest of the dealers have until July 1st 2026 to sell off affected inventory and/or continue to sell and handle transfers? Clear and concise, easy to understand language needs to describe that.

Also, it can't be stressed enough that should it pass, what the proponents of the bill say will and won't be banned is their opinion. Once it passes, their opinion or what they said means NOTHING. It will be up to the Attorney General/Col. of the State Police to interpret what they wrote and then enforce it. He and the others CANNOT guarantee that the AG & Col. will see things their way. This so-called revised version is the same overly broad, vague & confusing language as the original.

In closing, I note that as of June 2nd, the SCOTUS has denied hearing *Snope V. Brown* (MD AWB case) & *Ocean State Tactical v. RI* (RI mag ban case). The written opinions by Judge Kavanaugh clearly indicate that the court, not if, but when, will hear one or more of these cases. He also stated that the denial should not be construed that the high court agrees with the lower court decision. Judges Thomas, Alito & Gorsuch all would have voted to hear both cases. Once decisions from the 3rd, 7th & 9th Circuit Courts of Appeal on the various AWB/Mag cases are decided, SCOTUS will be picking one or more of them for review, and I firmly believe they will overturn everything you folks have voted for.

Given the serious economic/social problems in RI today, why are dealing with gun control? A channel 12 poll conducted by Joe Fleming (Fleming & Associates) on May 26th resulted in 94% OPPOSED to this legislation. RI DOES NOT have a gun violence problem, and as taxpayers, we shouldn't be footing the bill for what will be millions of dollars in legal fees defending an unconstitutional law.

Sincerely,

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