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Honorable RI Representatives

I am writing to you to voice my opposition to House bill H5436 and H5436A

My name is Paul Connolly. I am the owner of Bullseye Shooting Supplies Inc. located at 837 Park Avenue Woonsocket, RI 02895. I have been in business at this location for 41 years. We employ 2 full time and 4 part time employees. Should either of these bills pass, we will undoubtedly go out of business as the majority of the firearms listed are the ones that most Rhode Islanders want to purchase.

The so-called "Assault Weapons Ban" proposed in bills S359 and H5439 doesn't ban military grade weapons since those are already illegal. **This would effectively outlaw almost every firearm in Rhode Island** – a measure that is blatantly unconstitutional, as affirmed by the Heller and Bruen Supreme Court decisions. The intent behind this legislation is clear: to undermine our constitutional rights through a backdoor ban of firearms and a repeal of the Second Amendment. **It also violates current state law by requiring law-abiding citizens to register their firearms with the state government.** This is a gross violation of Rhode islanders' privacy, constitutional rights, and RI state law. It is blatantly unlawful.

We are not the largest firearm store in RI, but we are not the smallest either. In the last 4 years we have collected \$264,422.81 in sales tax for Rhode Island. 20 to 25 percent of this money comes from our Massachusetts customers. We bring out of state tax dollars into Rhode Island.

Of the 61 listed FFL holders in Rhode Island, we probably fall into the medium to large size based on inventory. I cannot imagine what D&L Hunting and Shooting Lodge in Warwick sends to the state in sales tax every month. They are the largest retail firearm store in the state.

Not only will R.I. lose tax revenue but it will also lose a large portion of the \$7,176,940.00 Funds that RI received from the Federal Government. RI received this money through the Pittman-Robinson Wildlife Restoration Act in 2023. This money comes from the 11% excise tax placed on all ammunition and firearm sales. I don't have any information for fiscal year 2024.

Rhode Island does not have a gun problem, it has a criminal problem and innocent firearm owners are always blamed for their crimes. This is a bad bill. It is aimed only at the people that are not causing a problem. Please vote against these bad firearms bills.

Sincerely,  
Paul Connolly

