

House Judiciary Committee Members,

As a resident of Warwick, RI I am writing this testimony in opposition of H 5436. In most cases for this bill, I have copied and pasted a prior response to the same tired, feel good, appease the donors to my re-election campaign and or the P.A.C. that lobbies me the most. The gun itself is an inanimate object and the deadly intent and outcome is always driven by the wielder. Punitive action against law-abiding citizens is not and never will be the answer to this issue. These new gun control schemes will only harass law-abiding citizens. They will not improve public safety because criminals, by definition, do not obey the law.

H 5436- An "assault weapons" ban to prohibit the future possession, purchase, sale, control, and manufacture of commonly owned firearms. This bill is an egregious legislative overreach which directly contradicts "In common use for lawful purpose"

A person who, on the effective date of this chapter, lawfully possessed an assault weapon and who, within one year of the effective date of this chapter registers the assault weapon with the police department in the city or town where the person resides or, if there is no such police department or the person resides out of state, with the Rhode Island state police in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. Rhode Island law prohibits government agencies from maintaining a list or register of privately owned firearms. This law is explicitly stated in R.I. Gen. Laws § 11-47-41

The bill's feature-based restrictions lack any basis in reducing firearm lethality and instead rely on fear-driven misconceptions and gun control propaganda.

Weight Restrictions (>50 oz): This targets pistol variants of rifles but also bans many common revolvers and semi-automatic handguns designed to mitigate recoil.

Threaded Barrels: Nearly all semi-automatic rifles and shotguns feature threading on barrels, making this a ban on most firearms.

Shrouds: These are generally a safety feature to prevent the user from touching the barrel of the gun as it may be hot.

Magazine Placement & Buffer Tubes: Most semi-automatic and many bolt-action rifles accept magazines outside the pistol grip. Buffer tubes, critical to AR-15 function, are also targeted, alongside stocks or braces on countless other firearms.

Criminalizing Possession of Parts: Makes it illegal to possess parts that could assemble an "assault weapon," even if unmounted. This vague provision turns ordinary Rhode Islanders into felons for owning components "In common use for lawful purpose", with no public safety

benefit. This contradicts claims that only specific firearms are affected. These bills infringe on constitutional rights and disproportionately harm and harass law-abiding citizens.

The supreme court has on multiple occasions used the term “In common use for lawful purpose” to distinguish arms protected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment. In closing I ask that you as legislators follow your oaths of office by respecting the rule of law, the constitutions of Rhode Island and our great republic and not allow these travesties to be passed into law.

Criminals by definition - DO NOT FOLLOW THE LAW

Christopher Barker, Lifelong Rhode Island resident