

Roberta DiMezza

From: Michael Pereira <mikepereira100@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:33 AM
To: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan; Rep. Knight, Jason; Rep. Ajello, Edith H.; Rep. Batista, Jose F.; Rep. Bennett, David A.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casimiro, Julie A.; Rep. Corvese, Arthur J.; Rep. Cruz, Cherie L.; Rep. Dawson, Matthew S.; Rep. Felix, Leonela; Rep. Hopkins, Marie A.; Rep. Noret, Thomas E.; Rep. Place, David J.; Rep. Craven, Robert E.; House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep_Chippendale
Subject: House Bill 5436

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear House Judiciary Committee Members and House Speaker Shekarchi,

I am RI born and raised, and so proud of our state's incredible history. RI played a very critical role in the formation of our nation, the Great American Experiment. We united with the original states forming America and approved and adopted the US Constitution in 1790 - perhaps the greatest leap forward for human liberty in the history of mankind. The Bill of Rights, which included the Second Amendment, was added to our Constitution just one year later in 1791.

The Second Amendment is prioritized just after the First, as our Founders understood that freedom of speech empowers the common man and woman, and disables tyrannical rule. The right to keep and bear arms is also of paramount importance as a deterrent to tyrannical rule.

Our US Constitution states that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. In addition, the RI Constitution (Article I, Section 22) states "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." House Bill 5436 is a massive infringement on our Second Amendment rights both at the federal and state level and should be **permanently tabled**. While marketed/propagandized as an "assault weapons ban", its language clearly intends to prohibit many if not most commonly owned firearms including rifles, handguns and shotguns. Not only is this in violation of the Second Amendment and Article I Section 22 of the RI Constitution, it is also egregious interference with industries that include manufacturing, commercial gun range facilities, tourism and hunting. It will also potentially drastically reduce RI government revenues received from the purchase of hunting permits, which will undermine budgets allocated for wildlife management and conservation.

The conflation of the criminal use of illegally possessed firearms with rightful legal firearms ownership of law-abiding citizens is incompetent, unethical, and totally disrespectful of both the US Constitution and the RI Constitution. Criminals ignore laws and break them. Criminals will continue to do so regardless of what laws are passed. And since criminals will be criminals, you should not take away from your RI constituents their Constitutional right to self-defense. If you do so, you will be on full display for your total lack of respect for your constituents and their families. No surprise between 13 and 15 RI cities and towns formally oppose H5436.

Please think this through. Understand our history. Understand our Constitution. Please side with America - government of, by and for the people - and not with gun grabbing tyrannies such as China, Stalinist Russia, Cuba, Australia, and numerous others. If you side with the tyrannies that have abused and weakened their people by disarming them, you will have metastasized into something that is antithetical to the Great American Experiment. You are here because of the Experiment. Without the Experiment, none of us would be here. We all stand on the shoulders of our ancestors, their struggles, and the challenges they overcame to bring us to the present moment we are all privileged to have.

The Second Amendment is a key part of the trajectory of history that has delivered us to the here and now. Please do not take it for granted. Please do not sabotage it - either deliberately or inadvertently.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

