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From: Sheila Clarkin <sheila.nsrtc@proton.me>
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2025 3:10 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: Assault Weapons Ban H5436

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Greetings,

I am writing to express my intense opposition to the deceptive bill proposal, called the Assault Weapons Ban. In addition to the undeniable, constitutional right that the Governor and others have repeatedly attempted to usurp from law-abiding citizens, it is common sense/knowledge that a firearm in itself is not a weapon. While unloaded, and securely stored in a lockbox, a gun cannot remove itself, load itself, aim itself, and discharge itself. It is a tool like any other. Assault is an action taken by a human being with ill intent. So, the terminology is greatly misleading, and we know that is done intentionally.

While I share the desire to reduce overall crime and keep our communities safe, I believe that banning standard, legal firearms is a misguided and ineffective solution. These tools, demonized in mainstream media, are typically semiautomatic firearms that function no differently than many other legal firearms already in circulation with standard features. An assault weapon ban would not address the root causes of gun violence, such as mental health issues, societal violence, or the illegal trafficking of firearms. No amount of legislation will do anything to make our streets safer. Why not focus on getting criminals and illegal weapons off the streets instead? Why not work equally with both anti-gun groups, 2nd-amendment groups, and law enforcement to draft feasible and justified legislation? Usurping control of law-abiding citizens will never clean up the streets if that is the state's intended goal. The paraphrased definition of insanity is this, doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. This legislation screams of insanity! Instead of focusing on banning certain firearms, I urge you to explore policies that address the actual sources of gun violence. These include enhancing background checks, improving mental health services, closing loopholes that enable the illegal sale of firearms here at home and across the border, and ensuring that law enforcement agencies have the necessary tools to keep our communities safe.

Please review the link below. Gifford's, the advocacy, and research organization focused on preventing gun violence, started due to the tragic shooting of Gabby Giffords. This is an anti-gun lobbyist group. Yet according to this reputable organization, it clearly shows that for every 100,000 deaths in Rhode Island, less than 5% are gun related. Stick with the facts, please! I ask

that you OPPOSE this bill and instead work toward common-sense solutions that respect both our right to self-defense and our shared goal of reducing violence in our society.

<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/resources/gun-violence-statistics/>

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