



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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*Peter F. Neronha*  
*Attorney General*

June 3, 2025

The Honorable Robert E. Craven, Sr. , Chairman  
House Committee on Judiciary  
State House, House Lounge  
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: HB 5436: Rhode Island Assault Weapons Ban Act of 2025**

Dear Chairman Craven and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

One of the most important responsibilities of the Office of the Attorney General is ensuring the safety of Rhode Island's communities. Accordingly, I have prioritized the investigatory and prosecutorial resources to properly equip the Office in the fight against gun violence and violent crime.

Over the past few years, the General Assembly has similarly reinforced its dedication to ensuring public safety through the passage of commonsense gun violence prevention laws, including the large-capacity magazine ban in 2022, and last year's passage of secure storage. Today, I am grateful the House of Representatives are considering a vote on HB 5436, sponsored by Representative Jason Knight, legislation that would ban assault weapons.

I write today to reassure the General Assembly that we are confident that this legislation is constitutional, and that we are prepared to defend any challenges that may arise. As you are aware, my Office has fought to ensure common sense gun safety laws remain on the books in Rhode Island; and we're winning.

Just yesterday, the Supreme Court issued a decision denying certiorari for *Ocean State Tactical v. Rhode Island* – a major case challenging the constitutionality of the high-capacity magazine ban. This decision marks yet another win for Rhode Islanders in the fight against gun violence, and as you prepare to vote on the assault weapons ban, it is my hope that this Office's successful defense of the large-capacity magazine ban inspires you to act, and act boldly, because one life lost to gun violence is one too many.

As always, I appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation and am available for any further questions the Committee may have.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Neronha  
Attorney General