

Testimony for House Judiciary Committee April 6, 2026 in Favor H 7557

My name is Jessie Kingston, retired. I'm member of RI Coalition Against Gun Violence and also Moms Demand Action. I live in Providence.

I am testifying in favor of H 7557, the RI Firearm Industry Accountability Act of 2026.

As has undoubtedly been pointed out in other testimony, this bill's purpose is to correct the injustices of the still standing 2005 Federal law, PLCAA or so-called Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act. This is one of several laws author Elie Mystal singles out as a bad law in his book by the same name, Bad Law.

No other industry enjoys such broad immunity from products liability claims as do gun companies. For example, cigarette companies and car manufacturers wish they had this kind of "protection".

H7557 is not intended to go after law abiding mom and pop gun dealers . The "90:5" ratio refers to studies that show 90% of guns used in crimes are traced back to 5% of gun dealers—bad actors who, because of the latitude afforded by PLCAA- manufacture and proudly advertise the lethal capacity of their weapons while also marketing add-ons and work arounds to ever increase their speed and lethality. They do this without fear of the kind of accountability they had seen occasionally enforced pre PLCAA.

H 7557 will allow families and victims of serious injuries or deaths due to guns made or sold by these bad actors the possibility to obtain some measure of justice and payment for these crimes. Without H 7557, they had no recourse.

In today's political and legislative environment, while we may not be able to change or correct Federal laws, we know we can do so at the State level. This General Assembly has done so many times and can right a wrong here again, by voting this bill out of committee and bringing it to a vote on the floor.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Jessie Kingston