

Dear Committee Chairwoman and Committee Members-

My name is Jim Kingston and I reside in Providence. I am writing in SUPPORT of House bill 7557.

To me, this is really simple:

- A tobacco company can be held liable for the health harms and death its products cause in people who choose to smoke tobacco products, despite decades of health warnings about those products;
- A fertilizer and weed killer manufacturer can be held liable for its products despite Federal approval of its products;
- A pharmaceutical company can be held liable for its products even though those products are approved by the Federal government;
- A bar owner can be held liable for over-serving a patron who then caused harm to their selves or others, despite being licensed to dispense alcohol to people eligible to drink alcohol.

And the list goes on.

This bill appropriately places liability and accountability on all of those in the chain of gun manufacturing to possession of that gun which might have been used to cause someone harm. Approximately 40,000 people die every year from suicide or murder by a gun, vastly greater than the collective harm from all of the above examples.

With the recent 2 mass casualty events here in Rhode Island and the above examples of comparable liability, we must do better to hold those contributing to harm more accountable. I ask that you support this bill and let it move to the House floor for a vote. Thank you for your consideration.