

Rep. Craven, Robert E.

From: theoilman51@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 7:43 PM
To: Sen. Ruggerio, Dominick J.; Rep. Shekarchi, K Joseph
Cc: theoilman51@msn.com
Subject: Please OPPOSE all gun control bills!

Importance: High

Members of the Rhode Island General Assembly,

Why the gun control bills won't make Rhode Islanders safer?

Everyone wants to reduce gun violence. The point of disagreement is how.

Enacting the gun control bills at the Statehouse this year will not make anyone safer because they do not focus on the cause of gun violence - criminals. Law enforcement statistics make clear that the overwhelming majority of gun crimes are committed by individuals who are already prohibited from owning firearms - not by people who own guns lawfully.

In other words, lawful gun owners are not the problem.

So how can passing laws affecting only lawful firearms owners - and that criminals will ignore - possibly save lives? That's not even remotely close to "common sense" that gun control advocates are always talking about.

Most of what you have been told by the proponents of gun control isn't true and is deceptively one sided.

For example:

- They claim AR-15s are weapons of war. False, these rifles are not used by our troops on the battlefield.
- They claim that banning ARs would cause a big decrease in gun crime. False, these guns are used in less than 1% of all illegal shootings.
- They claim that ARs are flooding our inner cities and contributing gun crime. False, not one of these firearms has been used in a crime in Rhode Island.
- They claim that the only use for AR-15s is to kill people. False again, with as many as 10 million in civilian hands, these rifles are widely used legally for competition and hunting and are very popular for home defense, especially with women who find them easier to use than a handgun.

About 3 million times a year someone uses a legally owned firearm for self-defense, according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Good people need access to firearms for protection. Making it more difficult for them to do so is irresponsible lawmaking.

The bill to make Rhode Island schools gun free zones is asking for tragedy. Advertising that a killer intent on murdering as many children as possible will not face any armed opposition until the police arrive is an invitation not a deterrent.

In Utah a few weeks ago a teacher with a concealed carry permit saved an 11-year-old girl from being abducted from the school, holding the would-be kidnapper at gunpoint until the police arrived. Gun control advocates want to make sure that this kind of protection isn't available for Rhode Island schoolchildren.

Please do not support any of the gun control bills. They are not a genuine, good-faith policy solutions that will save lives. They scapegoat the state's legal firearms owners and are a simplistic response to a complex issue.

Rhode Islanders expect you to make laws that are effective and not window dressing and that are based on facts and logic, not on the fears and fallacies of a superficial and virtue-signaling few. About 150,000 Rhode Island households that have firearms are following your actions on this issue. Please do not disappoint us.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

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