



**MAYORS AGAINST  
ILLEGAL GUNS**

April 22, 2015

To: Senate President M. Teresa Paiva Weed and House Speaker  
Nicholas A. Mattiello  
From: The Rhode Island coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns  
Re: S. 0503 and H. 5655 Would Protect Rhode Island Women and Families

Dear Senator Paiva Weed and Representative Mattiello

The Rhode Island coalition of Mayors Against Illegal Guns writes to respectfully ask that you vote in favor of S. 0503 and its companion bill H. 5655, which would protect Rhode Island domestic violence victims by keeping guns out of the hands of their abusers. We are a bipartisan coalition that supports the Second Amendment while recognizing that we can do more to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people. As mayors, our first responsibility is the safety of our citizens.

Mayors see firsthand how gun violence can devastate families. Here in Rhode Island, between 2003 and 2012, there were 31 domestic violence homicides, and nearly a quarter of them were committed with guns. Statistically, women in domestic violence situations are five times more likely to be murdered when a gun is present.

We urge you to consider the safety of Rhode Island families and support S. 0503 and H. 5655, which would help protect victims of domestic violence in two crucial ways:

- It would prohibit gun possession by people convicted of domestic violence crimes or subject to domestic violence protective orders; and
- It would require that these domestic abusers turn in the guns they already have to law enforcement or a federally licensed gun dealer when they become prohibited.

Currently, 20 states and Washington, D.C. prohibit people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors from having guns, and 23 states and Washington, D.C. prohibit people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from having guns. The lists include red and blue states all across the country, some of which passed this legislation as recently as last year.

As mayors of Rhode Island cities, we believe it is time to update Rhode Island law and empower law enforcement to better protect Rhode Island families from gun violence. We know that we can both support the Second Amendment and do more to protect victims of

domestic violence. Stand with us in support of S. 0503 and H. 5655 to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers, and help save Rhode Island lives.

Sincerely,

**Mayors Against Illegal Guns, Rhode Island Coalition**

**Central Falls Mayor James Diossa**

**North Providence Mayor Charles Lombardi**

**Pawtucket Mayor Donald Grebien**

**Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza**

**Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian**