



**RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT**

ONE UNION STATION  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903  
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

**Testimony Re: Senate Bill 2653, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Large Capacity Feeding Device Ban of 2022**

**Senate Judiciary Committee**

**March 31, 2022**

**Kelsey Bala, Policy Analyst**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. We would also like to thank Madam Chairwoman Coyne, for sponsoring this important bill and Senators Goodwin, Miller, DiPalma, Felag, Quezada, Seveney, Euer, Lawson, and DiMario for co-sponsoring. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its support for Senate Bill 2653, which would make it a felony for an individual to possess any semi-automatic firearm magazine capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammunition. A violation of this would be punishable by up to five years imprisonment or a fine would be issued of up to \$5,000, with exceptions for firearms dealers, law enforcement and military.

Nationally and in Rhode Island, gun reform remains a key area of focus, especially in the wake of several tragic school and mass shootings in recent years. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT believes comprehensive state policies to reduce gun violence are overdue. **Senate Bill 2653 is a practical step to reduce gun injuries and increase the safety of children in Rhode Island.**

**Gun-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among Children and Youth, Rhode Island, 2015-2019**

AGE	# OF ED VISITS	# OF HOSPITALIZATIONS	# OF DEATHS
1 to 14	48	4	0
15 to 17	50	10	4
18 to 19	47	17	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2015-2019.

In Rhode Island between 2015 and 2019, there were 145 emergency department visits, 31 hospitalizations, and 7 deaths of children and youth due to guns.

As we have seen in recent mass shootings, high-capacity magazines allow a shooter to fire repeatedly without pausing to reload. The time it takes a shooter to reload, even if it is only seconds, can allow victims to escape and law enforcement to intervene.

We strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 2653 to restrict possession of ammunition-feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

[rikids@rikidscount.org](mailto:rikids@rikidscount.org)  
[www.rikidscount.org](http://www.rikidscount.org)