



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

Testimony Re: House Bill 5554, An Act Relating to Criminal Offenses – Large Capacity Feeding Device Ban of 2021

House Judiciary Committee

March 19, 2021

Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. We would also like to thank Representatives Caldwell, Knight, Blazejewski, Kazarian, Craven, McNamara, Felix, Ajello, McEntee, and Williams for sponsoring this important bill. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT would like to voice its support for House Bill 5554, which would restrict the use of ammunition-feeding devices capable of holding more than ten rounds of ammunition.

Nationally and in Rhode Island, gun reform remains a key area of focus, especially in the wake of several tragic school and mass shootings over the past decade. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT believes comprehensive state policies to reduce gun violence are long overdue. **House Bill 5554 is a practical step to reduce gun injuries and increase the safety of children in Rhode Island.**

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Gun-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among Children and Youth, Rhode Island, 2014-2018

AGE	# OF ED VISITS	# OF HOSPITALIZATIONS	# OF DEATHS
1 to 14	52	4	0
15 to 17	48	12	4
18 to 19	53	20	4
TOTAL	153	36	8

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2014-2018.

Note: Effective October 1, 2015, the International Classification of Disease (ICD) codes changed from the 9th classification to the 10th classification, which may impact comparability across the years.

In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, there were 153 emergency department visits, 36 hospitalizations, and 8 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 House Bill 5554 to restrict possession of ammunition-feeding devices that hold more than ten rounds of ammunition. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

rikids@rikidscount.org
www.rikidscount.org