

Dear [Senator Name],

I am a member of the r/riguns community on reddit, and a concerned law abiding gun owner in the state of Rhode Island.

I am writing to express my support for **S2155**, which would remove the concealed carry licensing requirement in Rhode Island and recognize the right of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm without first obtaining a permit.

More than half of U.S. states (including half our New England neighbors) have now adopted some form of “constitutional carry,” allowing individuals who are legally eligible to possess a firearm to carry it without a permit. Experience in many of these states does not support the claim that removing licensing requirements leads to increased violent crime, quite the opposite in fact. For example, after Ohio implemented permitless carry in 2022, a study conducted in partnership with Bowling Green State University found that **six of the state’s eight largest cities experienced reductions in gun-related crime during the year following the law’s implementation.**¹

Long-term trends in other states also show similar patterns. In Arizona, which adopted constitutional carry in 2010, the **average violent crime rate declined from roughly 512.9 per 100,000 in the decade before the law to 444.6 per 100,000 in the decade after its passage.** Wyoming saw a comparable trend, with its average violent crime rate dropping from **243 per 100,000 prior to adoption to about 219 per 100,000 afterward.**²

Following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Bruen*, **New Jersey** dramatically expanded access to concealed carry permits, with more than **60,000** applications submitted between 2022 and 2025, compared to the 1,500 or so granted prior.³ During that same period, the state recorded its lowest number of shootings since tracking began in 2009, with firearm violence continuing to decline.⁴ These trends do not support the claim that expanded lawful carry leads to increases in violent crime.

Nationally, violent crime has also declined during the period in which lawful concealed carry has expanded dramatically. Over the past two decades, lawful concealed carry has expanded significantly across the United States, while national **violent crime rates have declined by roughly 24%** over the same period.⁵ At a minimum, this trend does **not** support the claim that expanded lawful carry leads to increases in violent crime.

S2155 would allow Rhode Islanders who are already legally permitted to possess firearms to carry for lawful self-defense without navigating a costly and time-intensive permitting process. For many residents, the current system requires significant expense, time away from work, and administrative hurdles that go far beyond what is required to exercise other constitutional rights, and do not honor the *text, history, nor tradition* framework setup in the Supreme Court’s decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. It is appropriate for states to reevaluate such burdens and ensure that the Second Amendment is afforded the same respect as other fundamental rights.

I respectfully encourage you to support **S2155** and consider policies that focus on criminal misuse of firearms rather than additional restrictions on responsible citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[City/Town], Rhode Island

1. <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/January-2024/Change-in-Concealed-Carry-Law-Did-Not-Drive-Violence>
2. <https://thewashingtonstandard.com/concealed-carry-crime-stats-2024the-impact-of-open-carry-on-crime-in-the-u-s/>
3. <https://san.com/cc/nyc-training-demand-rises-for-carry-permits-nj-sets-application-records/>
4. <https://www.nj.gov/oag/2024/2024-OAG-Year-in-Review.pdf>
5. <https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/content/new-data-shows-americans-continue-to-carry-concealed/>