
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO REINSTATE THE BAN ON THE
MANUFACTURE, TRANSFER, AND POSSESSION OF THE AR-15 RIFLE
AND OTHER CIVILIAN WEAPONS THAT WERE DESIGNED FOR MILITARY
USE.

1 WHEREAS, on February 14, 2018, a mass shooting took place
2 in Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL; and
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4 WHEREAS, police said the gunman used an AR-15 rifle to kill
5 seventeen people in one of the deadliest school mass shootings
6 in the nation's history; and
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8 WHEREAS, the AR-15 rifle, a civilian version of the
9 military's M-16, has often been used in American mass shootings;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, in the past thirty-five years, the AR-15 rifle has
13 been used in thirteen mass shootings, including eight since
14 March 2015, according to the Stanford Geospatial Center and
15 Stanford Libraries and USA TODAY; and
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17 WHEREAS, the importation of foreign-manufactured assault
18 weapons, including those substantially similar to the AR-15
19 rifle, was banned in 1989 by then-President George H.W. Bush and
20 the domestic manufacture, transfer, and possession of
21 semiautomatic assault weapons, including AR-15 rifles, and high-
22 capacity magazines were prohibited by the federal Public Safety
23 and Recreational Firearms Act of 1994, also known as the Federal
24 Assault Weapons Ban; and
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26 WHEREAS, although it withstood numerous constitutional
27 challenges, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expired in 2004 when
28 Congress failed to act to reauthorize it; and



1 WHEREAS, since the expiration of the Federal Assault
2 Weapons Ban in 2004, the National Rifle Association has called
3 the AR-15 rifle the "most popular rifle in America" and
4 estimated that Americans own more than eight million AR-15
5 rifles; and

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7 WHEREAS, these weapons are popular with a certain segment
8 of gun owners because they are adaptable, reliable, and
9 accurate, and can be customized with after-market accessories to
10 greatly increase magazine capacity, fire more rapidly, and
11 perform almost identically to the military version of the
12 weapon; and

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14 WHEREAS, while there is no clear definition of "assault
15 weapon" in current federal law, the United States Department of
16 Justice in 1994 said that assault weapons generally are
17 semiautomatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that
18 were designed and configured for rapid fire and combat use; and

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20 WHEREAS, the AR-15 rifle was considered an assault weapon
21 under the United States Department of Justice's 1994 definition
22 in accordance with the Federal Assault Weapons Ban; and

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24 WHEREAS, assault weapons such as the AR-15 have practically
25 no utility for hunting, recreational marksmanship, or other
26 reasonable purposes, but are rather designed to cause the
27 greatest possible injury to the greatest number of people,
28 particularly when customized with readily-available accessories
29 such as large-capacity magazines, rapid firing mechanisms, and
30 laser scopes; and

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32 WHEREAS, law enforcement has been united in support of
33 banning assault weapons as they are of particular danger and
34 concern to both civilians and law enforcement personnel; and

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36 WHEREAS, assault weapons no longer serve their primary
37 military function in the hands of civilians and their extreme
38 danger to the public and lack of legitimate functionality place
39 ownership of assault weapons far beyond the intent of the Second
40 Amendment of the United States Constitution; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, Hawaii's congressional delegation, and the respective Governors and presiding officers of the legislative bodies of each of the other forty-nine states.

Kelly

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