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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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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  
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30 WHEREAS, since the expiration of the Federal Assault  
31 Weapons Ban in 2004, the National Rifle Association has called



1 the AR-15 rifle the "most popular rifle in America" and  
2 estimated that Americans own more than eight million AR-15  
3 rifles; and  
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5 WHEREAS, these weapons are popular with a certain segment  
6 of gun owners because they are adaptable, reliable, and  
7 accurate, and can be customized with after-market accessories to  
8 greatly increase magazine capacity, fire more rapidly, and  
9 perform almost identically to the military version of the  
10 weapon; and  
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12 WHEREAS, while there is no clear definition of "assault  
13 weapon" in current federal law, the United States Department of  
14 Justice in 1994 said that assault weapons generally are  
15 semiautomatic firearms with a large magazine of ammunition that  
16 were designed and configured for rapid fire and combat use; and  
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18 WHEREAS, the AR-15 rifle was considered an assault weapon  
19 under the United States Department of Justice's 1994 definition  
20 in accordance with the Federal Assault Weapons Ban; and  
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22 WHEREAS, assault weapons such as the AR-15 have practically  
23 no utility for hunting, recreational marksmanship, or other  
24 reasonable purposes, but are rather designed to cause the  
25 greatest possible injury to the greatest number of people,  
26 particularly when customized with readily-available accessories  
27 such as large-capacity magazines, rapid firing mechanisms, and  
28 laser scopes; and  
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30 WHEREAS, law enforcement has been united in support of  
31 banning assault weapons as they are of particular danger and  
32 concern to both civilians and law enforcement personnel; and  
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34 WHEREAS, assault weapons no longer serve their primary  
35 military function in the hands of civilians and their extreme  
36 danger to the public and lack of legitimate functionality place  
37 ownership of assault weapons far beyond the intent of the Second  
38 Amendment of the United States Constitution; and  
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40 WHEREAS, it is critical to the public safety of the United  
41 States to reinstate the ban on the manufacture, transfer, and



1 possession of assault weapons, including the AR-15 rifle, and  
2 other weapons designed for military use and made available for  
3 sale on the open market; now, therefore,  
4

5 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
6 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
7 of 2018, that the United States Congress is urged to reinstate  
8 and strengthen the ban on the manufacture, transfer, and  
9 possession of assault weapons, including the AR-15 rifle, and  
10 other civilian weapons that were designed for military use and  
11 later made available for sale to the civilian market; and  
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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
14 Resolution be transmitted to the President Pro Tempore, Majority  
15 Leader, and Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the  
16 Speaker, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader of the United  
17 States House of Representatives, Hawaii's congressional  
18 delegation, and the respective Governors and presiding officers  
19 of the legislative bodies of each of the other forty-nine  
20 states.  
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OFFERED BY: 

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