



Monroe County Legislature

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To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
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OFFICIAL FILE COPY
No. 070156
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature of Monroe County
Committee Assignment
Memorializing Referral -L

Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Reinstate the Assault Weapons Ban

Honorable Legislators:

In 1994, Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act imposing a ten-year ban on the manufacture, possession, and transfer of semi-automatic assault weapons, except for military or police use. Extremely similar to military assault weapons, but marketed to civilians, semi-automatic assault weapons are designed to fire rapidly and spread their fire over a large area, giving them extraordinary lethal power. Labeled "cop killers" by law enforcement, some semi-automatic weapons can fire up to six bullets per second and can hold ammunition magazines that will allow a shooter to fire 30 rounds without reloading.

The federal assault weapons ban prohibited the manufacture of certain makes of firearms, copies of any of the prohibited makes, firearms with more than one military weapon feature, and ammunition magazines that hold more than ten rounds. Regrettably, President George W. Bush and the U.S. Congress allowed the assault weapons ban to expire in 2004. For 3 years now, the manufacture and sale of these high-powered, deadly weapons has been perfectly legal.

The threat from these weapons to citizens and law enforcement officials is very real. On January 17, 1989 five small children were killed and 29 others were wounded when Patrick Purdy, using an AK-47 semi-automatic assault weapon, opened fire at a Cleveland schoolyard, shooting 106 rounds in just two minutes. Sadly, this is only one of several tragic incidents where a shooter armed with a powerful assault weapon has killed and injured multiple victims.

Law enforcement officials report that semi-automatic assault weapons are "the weapons of choice" for gangs members and drug dealers. Federal law bans the sale of automatic weapons to civilians, yet semi-automatic assault weapons, with virtually the same killing power as fully automatic weapons, remain available. Therefore, I urge you to join me in memorializing the U.S. Congress to reinstate the federal assault weapons ban.

Respectfully submitted,

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