



## **H.R. 1808, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2022**

Semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices “result in [more shots fired, more persons hit, and more wounds inflicted](#) per victim than do attacks with other firearms.” They are the weapons of choice for mass shooters and shootings have more fatalities when they are used. These weapons of war are also used when criminals target law enforcement officers since their ability to fire many rounds quickly allows them to overwhelm the firepower of a typical police firearm. Semiautomatic assault weapons were banned from 1994 until the ban was allowed to expire in 2004. During this period, researchers found that mass shooting fatalities were [70% less likely](#) to occur. Currently, there are no federal laws that restrict the sale of semiautomatic assault weapons or large capacity ammunition feeding devices. Reducing the prevalence of these weapons and devices by improving on the prior ban will reduce the lives lost to gun violence and make our communities safer.

H.R. 1808, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2022 would:

- Prohibit the sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices, subject to grandfathering provisions and other exceptions
- Define semiautomatic assault weapons to include
  - Rifles, shotguns, and pistols that (1) are semiautomatic, (2) can accept a detachable ammunition feeding device, and (3) have at least one additional listed feature that make firearms especially deadly, including military features identified in ATF reports under the [Bush](#) and [Clinton](#) administrations
  - Certain semiautomatic firearms with large capacity fixed ammunition feeding devices
  - Specific prohibited firearms listed by model and manufacturer
  - Frames, receivers, and copies of these firearms
- Allow the possession of any semiautomatic assault weapon lawfully possessed on the date of enactment
- Allow the sale or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon lawfully possessed on the date of enactment following a background check
- Require that semiautomatic assault weapons be securely stored so that they are not accessible to those who are prohibited from possessing them
- Allow states to use Byrne Justice Assistance Grant funds for voluntary buyback programs for semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines
- Protect the rights of hunters, gun collectors, farmers, sport shooters, and those who use firearms for self-defense through exemptions for grandfathered weapons, antiques, most manually operated firearms, and more than 2,200 listed firearms that are not affected by its prohibitions
- Exempt the use of semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices for specific uses such as law enforcement (including retired service weapons), nuclear security, testing authorized by the Attorney General, and temporary transfers without a background check for target shooting at a licensed target facility or established range

This legislation is endorsed by Brady, Everytown for Gun Safety, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, and the American Public Health Association.

*Prepared by House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff*

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