



# 2020 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION BAN THE SALE OF MILITARY STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS

*"I am a trauma surgeon, and I've seen what AR-15s can do... a typical 9mm handgun wound to the liver will produce a pathway of tissue destruction in the order of 1-2 inches. In comparison, an AR-15 round to the liver will literally pulverize it, much like dropping a watermelon onto concrete results in the destruction of the watermelon."*

- Dr. Ernest E. Moore

## What is an Assault Weapon?

Assault weapons are semi-automatic rifles with at least one military-style feature making the weapons easier to fire more accurately and rapidly than a typical hunting rifle. [See picture on the back] Seven states have banned the sale of assault weapons, allowing reasonable exemptions for law enforcement, military members, and shooting ranges.<sup>1</sup> Multiple federal courts have upheld these public safety bans as constitutional.<sup>2</sup>

# 11X

Assault Weapons are 11x more likely to be used in a mass shooting than a handgun.<sup>3</sup> When assault weapons or high capacity magazines are used in a mass shooting, more than twice as many people are shot.<sup>4</sup>

# 7X

Compared to any other firearm, an assault weapon is 7x more likely to kill law enforcement. A study analyzing FBI data showed that 20% of the law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty from 1998 to 2001 were killed with assault weapons.<sup>5</sup>

# 2

PERCENT

Less than 2% of all Americans own assault weapons.<sup>6</sup>

# 3,251 FPS

The bullet of a 9mm handgun travels at 1,200 feet per second and delivers a kinetic energy of 400 foot pounds. By comparison, the standard AR-15 .223 caliber bullet travels at 3,251 feet per second and delivers 1300 foot pounds.<sup>7</sup> Tissue destruction of the AR-15 is enhanced by cavitation – the destruction of tissue beyond the direct pathway of the bullet – caused by high velocity bullets with kinetic energies are over 2,500 foot pounds.<sup>8</sup>

### Key Support:

- Everett Herald
- The Seattle Times

### Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Kuderer: D

Rep. Peterson: D

1: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, New York, New Jersey, Maryland Massachusetts

2: Shew v. Malloy, No. 15-1030 (2nd Cir. 2015), cert. denied; Friedman v. Highland Park, No. 14-3091 (7th Cir. 2015), cert. denied; Stephen v. Kolbe, No. 14-1945 (4th Cir. 2017), cert denied.

3: Independent AGO analysis of mass shooting data compiled by Mother Jones.

4: Ibid.

5: Violence Policy Center, "Officer Down, Assault Weapons and the War on Law Enforcement," May, 2003, <http://www.vpc.org/studies/officeone.htm>.

6: Affidavits filed in Stephen v. Kolbe, No. 14-1945 (4th Cir. 2017).

7: Other rifles fire bullets at similar speeds. However, without the military-style features of an assault weapons that allow for more accurate and rapid fire, these rifles are much less deadly in mass shootings.

8: Dr. David Shatz, a trauma surgeon at the University of California, Davis and Dr. Ernest E. Moore, editor of the Journal of Trauma



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### Anatomy of an Assault Weapon



Telescoping stock: more compact for better maneuverability

Detachable High Capacity Magazine: Allows rapid reloading for sustained fire

Forward Grip: Provides greater control over recoil for rapid fire

Pistol Grip: Provides greater control during rapid fire

Combination Flash Suppressor and Muzzle Brake: Reduces muzzle climb and preserves shooter's eyesight