



# 2021 AG REQUEST LEGISLATION

## BAN THE SALE OF MILITARY STYLE ASSAULT WEAPONS

### Problem:

Assault weapons have been used in some of the deadliest shootings over the last decade and are becoming increasingly more popular in mass shootings.<sup>1</sup> Assault weapons are semi-automatic weapons with at least one military-style feature [see picture on back] and the weapon design itself, including modifications, makes the weapons easier to fire and allows them to fire more accurately and rapidly than a typical hunting rifle.

In fact, a standard AR-15 .223 caliber bullet travels at 3,251 feet per second and delivers 1300 foot pounds of kinetic energy. By comparison, the bullet of a 9mm handgun travels at 1,200 feet per second and delivers a kinetic energy of 400 foot pounds.

*"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

### Solution:

Washington must prioritize public safety over personal hobbies and take steps to ban the sale of dangerous assault weapons.

KEY  
STATS

**11X** Assault weapons are 11 times more likely to be used in a mass shooting than a handgun.<sup>2</sup>

**7X** They are also 7 times more likely to kill law enforcement compared to any other firearm.<sup>3</sup>

**6X** "When assault weapons are used in a mass shooting, 6 times as many people are shot" -Everytown for Gun Safety

### Around the US:

Seven states<sup>4</sup> have passed similar legislation banning these weapons. Multiple federal courts<sup>5</sup> have upheld these public safety bans as constitutional and the Supreme Court has allowed these decisions to stand as good law.

### Legislation: [SB 5217](#) / [HB 1229](#)

This legislation prohibits the sale, manufacture, transfer, transport, and import of assault weapons in Washington state. It also requires safe and secure storage for those weapons that will be grandfathered by possession on the effective date of the legislation and allows reasonable exemptions for law enforcement, military members, and shooting ranges.

### Key Support:

- Everett Herald
- The Seattle Times

### Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Kuderer: D  
Rep. Peterson: D

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1: Huffington Post, "Here's What You Need To Know About The Weapons Of War Used In Mass Shootings," Feb. 14, 2018, <https://bit.ly/35E3jm8>.

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

3: Violence Policy Center, "Officer Down, Assault Weapons and the War on Law Enforcement," May, 2003, <https://bit.ly/2tIcMMg>.

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

5: 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.



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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