What needs to change?
Assault weapons have been used in some of the deadliest shootings over the last decade and are becoming increasingly more popular in mass shootings. Assault weapons are semi-automatic weapons with at least one military-style feature 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

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

What are other jurisdictions doing?
Seven states have passed similar legislation banning these weapons. Multiple federal courts have upheld these public safety bans as constitutional and the Supreme Court has allowed these decisions to stand as good law.

What does this legislation do? 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.
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