

Gun Control Act of 2016

In the year 2015, an average of 36 Americans were killed by firearms each day, not including suicides. From 2005-2015, 301,797 Americans have been killed by gun violence. In 2015, on average, a toddler shoots someone about once a week. In 2015, the FBI processed 185,345 gun background checks in one day.

This bill aims (pun intended) to reduce the number of mass shootings and gun-violence related deaths in the United States.

What the bill does:

The legislation bans the sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of:

- All semiautomatic rifles that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or barrel shroud.
- All semiautomatic pistols that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: listed above
- All semiautomatic rifles and handguns that have a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 15 rounds.
- All automatic or semiautomatic rifles and handguns that contain rocket or grenade launchers
- All ammunition feeding devices (magazines, strips, and drums) capable of accepting more than 15 rounds.

The legislation excludes the following weapons from the bill:

- Any weapon that is **lawfully possessed** at the date of the bill's enactment;
- Any firearm **manually operated** by a bolt, pump, lever or slide action;
- Assault weapons used by military, **law enforcement, and retired law enforcement**; and
- **Antique weapons.**
- **2,256** legitimate hunting and sporting rifles and shotguns by specific make and model

In addition to banning assault weapons per the details listed, this bill would:

- Require a federal background check on all sales or transfers of a grandfathered assault weapon.
- Require an instant federal background check on all future sales or transfers of firearms, including at gun shows
 - This background check can be run through the FBI or, if a state chooses, initiated with a state agency, as with the existing background check system.
 - Prohibit the sale of firearms to non-US citizens living within U.S. borders
 - Prohibit the sale of firearms to anyone who possesses a criminal charge of aggravated assault
 - Prohibit the sale of firearms to anyone who has documented stay of over two weeks in a mental health facility
- Allow states and localities to use federal grant funds to conduct a voluntary buy-back program for grandfathered firearms and large-capacity ammunition feeding devices.
- Requires that all firearms manufactured after the date of the bill's enactment be engraved with the serial number and date of manufacture of the weapon

This bill would also end liability protection for gun brokers and manufacturers:

- If a licensed firearms dealer, broker, or manufacturer sells a firearm to an individual, and that individual commits a violent crime with that weapon, the victims of that crime may file a civil suit for damages against the firearms dealer, broker, and/or manufacturers.
- The local government may also file criminal suit against a firearms dealer, broker, or manufacturer who sells a firearm to an individual, and that individual commits a violent crime with that weapon.

Assault weapon bans have been proven to be effective

The 1994 Assault Weapons Ban was effective at reducing crime and getting these military-style weapons off our streets. Since the ban expired, more than 350 people have been killed and more than 450 injured by these weapons.

- A Justice Department study of the assault weapons ban found that it was responsible for a **6.7% decrease in total gun murders**, holding all other factors equal.
- The same study also found that “Assault weapons are disproportionately involved in murders with **multiple victims, multiple wounds per victim, and police officers as victims.**”
- **The use of assault weapons in crime declined by more than two-thirds** by about nine years after 1994 Assault Weapons Ban took effect.
- The percentage of firearms seized by police in Virginia that had **high-capacity magazines dropped significantly during the ban.** That figure has **doubled** since the ban expired.
- When Maryland imposed a more stringent ban on assault pistols and high-capacity magazines in 1994, it led to a **55% drop in assault pistols recovered** by the Baltimore Police Department.
- **37% of police departments** reported seeing a **noticeable increase** in criminals’ use of assault weapons since the 1994 federal ban expired.

Registered supporters of bill:

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

International Union of Police Associations

National Association of Police Organizations

Registered opposition to bill:

American Hunters and Shooters Association

Gun Owners of America

National Rifle Association