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# A Guide for Supporting a State Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

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**Reading time** (excluding the table, footnotes, and the Resources section): about 30  
minutes

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## **Purpose, Basic Assumptions, and Definitions**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this report is to describe the arguments that support the adoption of a Minnesota law that bans the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. To learn about the primary arguments posed by opponents of

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Orange serves as the coordinator for the local Chapter 27 Veterans For Peace, Sane Gun Laws group. Beginning in 2018, members have advocated at the Legislature for a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Michael served in the Marines including in combat in Vietnam (1969-70).

## **Support for a State Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines**

such a ban, members of Chapter 27 Veteran For Peace, Sane Gun Laws group met with 48 legislators, including legislators who represent conservative and swing districts. We also researched the information from the Minnesota Gun Owners' Caucus and many other sources.

**Assumed attitude of people supporting a state ban:** The analysis assumes that most supporters of an assault weapons ban are deeply concerned about reducing gun violence and especially its effects on our children. They believe that a ban will make it more difficult for a potential mass shooter to obtain an assault weapon, and that a ban, in conjunction with other common-sense gun control measures, can help reduce the frequency and lethality of gun violence.

**Assumed attitude of people opposing a state ban:** The analysis assumes that most law-abiding owners of legally acquired assault weapons are also deeply concerned about reducing gun violence and especially its effects on our children. However, rather than “blame” the weapons, they insist that other factors, e.g., mental health and unsafe schools, are actually at the root of mass shootings. They argue that addressing those factors is the right approach; not bans. Many feel attacked for defending their perceived, constitutionally protected right to own, use, and protect themselves and their families with these weapons; and they feel unjustly blamed for gun crimes committed by others. Many also believe the ban on transfers unjustly limits a parent's traditional right to hand down an “heirloom” hunting rifle to their children.

**Assumed characteristics of an assault weapon ban:** Sen. Zaynab Mohamed (63, DFL) submitted a proposed bill, dated 9/11/2025, for a state ban on the sale and transfer of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines (Mohamed bill). If approved, the bill would have the following impacts as of 1/1/2027 on an owner of a legally acquired assault weapon:<sup>2</sup>

- They could choose to register it, and continue to store and fire it consistent with the law for as long as they wish.
- They could choose to surrender it to the appropriate law enforcement agency, modify the device to make it inoperable, or remove it from the state.
- They would not be able to transfer it. *Transfer* means a sale, gift, loan, assignment, or other delivery to another. This includes inheritance.
- A person who inherits a banned weapon must surrender it to the appropriate law enforcement agency, modify the device to make it inoperable, or remove it from the state.

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<sup>2</sup> Michael Orange prepared a separate report that analyzed the Mohamed bill with a focus on minimizing its impact on law-abiding owners of legal assault weapons, while preserving the main purpose of making it more difficult for potential mass shooters to obtain these weapons (available upon request).

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- A person who violates the law “is guilty of a felony and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than five years or to payment of a fine of not more than \$25,000 or both.”

### Definitions:

- **Mass shooting:** When 4 or more persons (excluding the shooter) are wounded or killed with a gun.
- **Civilian assault weapons:** For this report, civilian assault weapons refer to semiautomatic, typically AR-15-style rifles designed to fire high-powered rounds at a greater velocity than most other firearms. When combined with high-capacity magazines, they enable a shooter to fire a devastating number of rounds during a short period.
- **High-capacity magazine:** Capacity of 10 or more rounds.
- **High-powered rounds:** There are a wide variety; however, the most common are the 5.56 mm NATO round and the .223 caliber Remington round.

## Ban Opponents' Belief: Bans Demonize AR-15-Style Rifles and Penalize Their Owners

**Many gun owners believe that assault weapon bans demonize AR-15-style rifles, and penalize those who own them:** There is a vibrant subculture of enthusiasts who enjoy modifying and upgrading their AR-15-style rifles, and sharing their experiences with others, much like those who modify cars or computers. They share a passion for the rifle platform's ability to be customized, its technology, and its functionality. They can be offended by the suggestion that there is something inherently immoral about these weapons and their attachment to them.

**Rifle design:** The rifle's design is built around a two-part system—the upper and lower receivers. The lower receiver, which contains the trigger and magazine well, is the serialized component considered to be the actual firearm. The upper receiver contains the barrel, bolt carrier group, and other components of the rifle (diagram at right). With the right tools and experience, a person can swap out for a barrel of a different length, caliber, or configuration. A variety of stocks and accessories are available (e.g., sights, scopes, grips, lasers, flashlights, suppressors, etc.). This flexibility, plus their high accuracy with minimal recoil, make AR-15-style rifles extremely popular for legal uses like sport shooting, small game hunting,<sup>3</sup> and defense. Unfortunately, their ability to accommodate high-capacity magazines, up to 100 rounds each (image at right) makes them the weapon of choice for mass shooters.



**Registration is not a slippery slope to confiscation:** At meetings with legislators, we learned that some gun-rights voters harbor a deep fear and resentment against government, both federal and local. They believe they need their legally obtained assault weapons to defend themselves, their families, and their property in the event a tyrannical government attempts to confiscate their weapons, or attack their civil and

<sup>3</sup> Compared to the rounds typically used for hunting larger game (e.g., the 30.06 round), the 5.56 NATO round and its civilian companion round, the .223 Remington, are not as effective for larger game (deer, feral pigs, elk, bear, etc.). They lack the 30.06 round's mass and energy, and they are designed to tumble upon impact and fragment. This makes them unsuitable for a "humane" kill at longer distances where preserving the meat is an important purpose of the hunt, but acceptable for destroying small game and varmints.

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property rights. They see registration as a step towards confiscation. I researched the issue, and concluded that a short cartoon filmed in 1969, *Bambi Meets Godzilla*,<sup>4</sup> best describes the chances of success that of an armed insurrection could overthrow the U.S. government: The “Other” section at the end of this report provides more detail.

I don’t see registration as a reasonable concern. Since 8/1/2024, the state has required that 1) a buyer of an assault weapons must obtain a Permit to Purchase, which includes a background check, and 2) that the weapon’s serial number is recorded by the buyer and seller during the transfer process. I would argue that the state requires registration of vehicles, boats, campers, and even canoes.<sup>5</sup> It’s a reasonable requirement that enables the current legal owner to retain their *grandfathered* weapons, and continue to fire them at gun ranges and wherever it is legally allowed.<sup>6</sup>

**Restrictions on transfers vary by state:** As mentioned above, many ban opponents believe the ban on transfers unjustly limits a parent’s traditional right to hand down an “heirloom” hunting rifle to their children. Of the ten states that have bans, 3 allow transfers to family members or via a legal will: Connecticut, Washington, and Delaware.<sup>7</sup> The other 7 states with bans and Washington DC prohibit transfers as does the Mohamed bill.

**No shame:** Assuming the Mohamed bill is approved and goes into effect after 1/1/2027, a law-abiding owner will have registered their assault weapons and are storing them appropriately, so there should be no implied shame in obeying the law. Given the flexibility of the AR-15 rifle platform, the Mohamed bill will not affect owners’ ability to modify the upper receiver of their grandfathered/registered rifles to fit their changing needs.

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<sup>4</sup> Refer to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bambi\\_Meets\\_Godzilla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bambi_Meets_Godzilla)

<sup>5</sup> Minnesota requires vehicle registration (cars, boats, trailers) primarily for public safety, revenue generation (highway funds), and vehicle tracking/ownership verification, ensuring all vehicles on public roads pay taxes, have proper identification (plates/tabs), and are accounted for by the state for law enforcement, licensing, and transportation and budget planning purposes. This process funds road maintenance and establishes legal ownership, making it crucial for operating on public streets and waterways.

<sup>6</sup> In states with assault weapon bans, registering grandfathered weapons (those owned before the ban) serves to track these specific firearms, ensuring they remain in legal possession, preventing them from entering the illegal market, allowing law enforcement to trace crime guns, and often requiring secure storage or background checks for future transfers, ultimately limiting their circulation and future availability without confiscating them from current owners.

<sup>7</sup> The Washington State assault weapons ban (effective 2023) allows a person to inherit an assault weapon and keep it within the state. However, they cannot sell or transfer it to any other person in the state except to a licensed dealer, a gunsmith for repair, or law enforcement. The Connecticut ban allows registered assault weapons (those lawfully owned and registered before the 2013 ban) to be transferred through bequest or intestate succession (inheritance without a will). The individual who inherits the weapon must, within 90 days, apply for a new certificate of possession, render the firearm inoperable, sell it to a licensed dealer, or remove it from the state. The Delaware ban grandfathered assault weapons acquired before the ban (June 30, 2022) and allows them to be transferred to a family member.

## Ban Opponents' Belief: AR-15-Style Rifles are Not "Weapons of War"

**Many gun owners believe that AR-15-style rifles are not "weapons of war:"** In order to argue that the Second Amendment protects assault weapons, opponents of banning them must show that they are substantively different than weapons that are "predominantly useful in military service,"<sup>8</sup> i.e., they are not "weapons of war." The history of the AR-15 contradicts that belief. The original ArmaLite AR-15, designed by Eugene Stoner and his team 70 years ago in 1956, was a selective-fire, automatic rifle intended for military use. Later, the Colt Firearms Co. marketed it to the military as the M16 rifle. In 1964, Colt redesigned the AR-15 for civilian use as a semi-automatic version of the M16 (one round per trigger pull). The only significant difference between military and civilian assault rifles is that military rifles are capable of automatic fire, while civilian rifles are restricted to semiautomatic fire. However, the primary value of automatic fire is for suppressive fire on the battlefield to enable maneuvering. It has no value for legal uses by civilians (i.e., sport shooting, hunting, and self-defense).

**More powerful:** The table below compares the power and lethality of the two most common rounds (5.56 NATO and .223 Remington, both with 55-grain bullets) as fired by a typical AR-15-style rifle versus the M16 and the M4, which is the military's primary replacement for the M16. When firing either 5.56 NATO or .223 Remington rounds, the muzzle velocity of an AR-15 has a greater muzzle velocity than the M4—7% greater firing 5.56 NATO and 4% greater firing .223 Remington. What is more important is that this ammunition can tumble and fragment upon impact, which makes it horribly deadly. The differences are distinctions without a difference.

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<sup>8</sup> Source: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>

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Comparison of Lethality of M16, M4, and AR-15 Rounds				
Updated: 10/6/2025				
Round	5.56 NATO (55 grain bullet)			.223 Remington (55 grain bullet)
Weapon	M16	M4	AR-15-Style	AR-15-Style
Barrel length <sup>1</sup>	20"	14.5"	16"	
Compared M16		-28%	-20%	
Compared to M4	38%		11%	
Full automatic <sup>2</sup>	Yes, but value limited to suppressive fire on battlefield		No, but of no value to legal civilian uses, i.e., target shooting, hunting, self defense	
Muzzle velocity (ft. per sec.) <sup>3, 4, 5</sup>	3,100	2,970	3,165	3,090
Compared M16		-4%	2%	-0.3%
Compared to M4	4%		7%	4%
Tumble upon impact (TUI)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Available
<b>Notes:</b>				
1	Barrel length is important because a longer barrel increases a bullet's muzzle velocity by providing more time for a more complete and efficient transfer of energy from the burning propellant to the bullet as the expanding gases push the bullet forward.			
2	The primary value of automatic fire for assault weapons is for suppressive fire to enable maneuvering. The U.S. Army's Rifle and Carbine Training Circular notes, "Automatic and burst fires drastically decrease the probability of hits due to the rapid succession of recoil impulses and the inability of the Soldier to maintain proper sight alignment and sight picture on the target." Source: "Key Points About Assault Weapons," Violence Policy Center, <a href="https://vpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Assault-weapon-primer-2017-VPC.pdf">https://vpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Assault-weapon-primer-2017-VPC.pdf</a>			
3	Source for the M16 and M4: UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS Field Medical Training Battalion – East, Camp Lejeune, FMST 1219, M16/M4 Carbine Service Rifle Familiarization			
4	Source for the rounds fired from an AR-15-style rifle: "5.56 vs .223: Understanding Critical Differences Between 5.56 NATO and .223 Remington Ammunition," Bulk Munitions, <a href="https://bulkmunitions.com/blog/5-56-vs-223-ammo-19-things-you-need-to-know/">https://bulkmunitions.com/blog/5-56-vs-223-ammo-19-things-you-need-to-know/</a>			
5	The casings and 55 grain bullets for the 5.56 NATO and .223 Remington are identical; however, propellants may vary slightly for .223 cartridges. Barrel length is the main determinant for the differences in muzzle velocity. The M16 barrel is 38% longer than the M4 and the rifle's muzzle velocity is 4% larger. The barrel of the typical AR-15-style rifle is 11% longer than the M4, and the muzzle velocity is 7% larger.			

**In sum:** The Supreme Court's Heller decision limits the protections of the Second Amendment to handguns used for self-defense, not weapons of war. And secondly, in terms of lethality, there are no substantive differences between AR-15-style rifles when they are used for legal purposes (i.e., "common uses" including sport shooting, hunting, and self-defense) and the military's standard-issue, M4 assault rifle. As such, the bans adopted by ten states and the District of Columbia have been able to withstand repeated court challenges, and so can a similarly designed ban for Minnesota. (The section below, "Bans are Legal and Minnesotans Want Them," includes more information on the legality of bans.)

**The weapon of choice for mass murderers:** Assault weapons, especially assault rifles, are the weapon of choice for mass murderers, and responsible for most of the devastating mass shootings, including mass shootings in our schools. The following lists other related aspects of assault weapons and gun violence:

- **Assault rifles are to blame:** An analysis of public mass shootings resulting in 4 or more deaths found that more than 85% of such fatalities were caused by shooters with assault rifles.<sup>9</sup>
- **Rapid fire:** A person firing an AR-15-style rifle can shoot the thirty high-powered rounds in the typical high-capacity magazine in 3-5 seconds.<sup>10</sup>
- **Far more lethal:** A study of mass shootings with 4 or more people killed between 2015 and 2022 concluded that the use of assault weapons resulted in nearly 6 times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded per incident on average as compared to shooting where other types of weapons were used.<sup>11</sup>
- **The Las Vegas massacre:** The gunman at a concert in Las Vegas in 2017 fired more than 1,000 rounds, killing 60 people. Nearly 900 people were injured.<sup>12</sup>
- **Lethality of high-capacity magazines:** Incidents involving a firearm equipped with a high-capacity magazine resulted in nearly 5 times as many people shot, more than twice as many fatalities, and nearly 10 times as many injuries per incident on average compared to those that did not involve the use of high-capacity magazines.<sup>13</sup>
- **High-capacity magazines and crime guns:** Although the gun lobby has argued that these weapons are only used in a small percentage of firearm-related violent crime, a 2018 study estimated that guns equipped with high-capacity magazines account for 22-36% of crime guns in most places, with some estimates upward of 40% for cases involving serious violence, including homicides of law enforcement officers.
- **Leading cause of death for American youth:** The plague of gun violence is the leading cause of death for American youth.<sup>14</sup>
- **No way to tell the difference between a law-abiding gun owner and the shooter:** According to Nick Suplina, senior vice president for law and policy at Everytown for Gun Safety, “41 states allow permitless open carry, and nearly 30 allow permitless concealed carry. This trajectory leads to a society where firearms could be

<sup>9</sup> Source: Giffords, [https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/#footnote\\_1\\_5603](https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/#footnote_1_5603).

<sup>10</sup> Source: [https://www.stngrusa.com/what-you-need-to-know-about-ar-15-ultimate-resource#:~:text=A:%20The%20time%20it%20\(%20AR%2015,the%20chamber%20in%20less%20than%203%20seconds.](https://www.stngrusa.com/what-you-need-to-know-about-ar-15-ultimate-resource#:~:text=A:%20The%20time%20it%20(%20AR%2015,the%20chamber%20in%20less%20than%203%20seconds.)

<sup>11</sup> Source: Everytown Research and Policy, <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shootings-in-america/#:~:text=Proven%20Solution:%20Extreme%20Risk%20Laws,Weapons%20and%20High%2DCapacity%20Magazines.>

<sup>12</sup> Source : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017\\_Las\\_Vegas\\_shooting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Las_Vegas_shooting)

<sup>13</sup> Source: Giffords, *ibid*.

<sup>14</sup> Source: “Preventing firearm violence and injuries impacting children and teens,” Centers for Disease Control, 12/16/24, <https://www.cdc.gov/firearm-violence/php/research-summaries/children-and-teen-impacts.html#:~:text=Introduction,19%20in%202020%20and%202021.>



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everywhere, and where neither officers nor ordinary citizens can tell the difference between a law-abiding gun owner and the next shooter.”

- **Easy to hide:** The typical AR-15-style rifle weighs about 8 lbs. A shooter could remove the upper receiver from the lower receiver by pushing in two pins, and then reassemble the rifle in a matter of seconds. Their approximate length of 18” of a disassembled rifle would fit in a grocery bag.
- **Most get their weapons from family and friends:** “The US Secret Service has undertaken two studies of targeted school violence, covering nearly 40 years of incidents. They found that three-quarters of school shooters acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative (73 percent in the first study and 76 percent in the second study). The Secret Service’s second study of incidents, from 2008 to 2017, revealed that in nearly half of the shootings, the firearm was easily accessible or was not stored securely.”<sup>15</sup>

**The problem is getting worse:** Research suggests that the prevalence of high-capacity magazines in guns used in crimes has grown substantially since the 2004 expiration of the federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.<sup>16</sup> Dr. Laurel Ries, who spoke for the Minnesota Medical Association and the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, said firearm deaths have “become an epidemic.”

**What high-powered rounds do to the body:** As mentioned above, most high-powered rounds from AR-15-style assault rifles tumble and fragment upon impact. The following describes their effects on the human body:

- Dr. Peter Rhee compared the damage done by AR-15 bullets and 9mm handgun bullets: “One looks like a grenade went off in there. The other looks like a bad knife cut.”<sup>17</sup>
- An Army medic serving during the Vietnam War described how an M16 round entered an enemy soldier’s left wrist, bore through his arm, chest, torso, and exited out his right thigh.
- Uvalde, TX: “In previously unreleased interviews, police who responded to the Robb Elementary shooting told investigators they were cowed by the shooter’s military-style rifle. This drove their decision to wait for a Border Patrol SWAT team to engage him, which took more than an hour.”<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Source: <https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-to-stop-shootings-and-gun-violence-in-schools/>

<sup>16</sup> Source: Giffords, *ibid.*

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Source: “What an AR-15 Can Do to the Human Body: When a patient is shot by an AR-15, it ‘looks like a grenade went off in there,’” Sarah Zhang, *Wired*, 6/17/16, <https://www.wired.com/2016/06/ar-15-can-human-body/>

<sup>18</sup> Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/03/20/uvalde-shooting-police-ar-15/>

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- President Biden: “The damage was so devastating in Uvalde, parents had to do DNA swabs to identify the remains of their children. Nine- and 10-year-old children.”<sup>19</sup> The killer’s assault weapon functioned exactly as designed—to kill and maim as many human beings as possible.
- “AR-15 bullets can penetrate the soft body armor typically worn by police, which is built to stop handgun rounds. The AR-15 bullet ... hits with such force that it tears gaping holes and liquifies vital organs as if a bomb had gone off inside the body.”<sup>20</sup>

## Ban Opponents’ Belief: Bans Are Not Effective

**Opponents say bans are ineffective, but that is not true:** Opponents to bans argue they are ineffective, and that it’s better to focus on improving mental health resources. In fact, studies refute this argument. As the ten states with assault weapons bans have experienced, the frequency and severity of gun violence is dramatically reduced when it becomes illegal to buy or transfer these weapons. Bans are effective, especially if they are part of a comprehensive set of common-sense gun control regulations (e.g., red flag; safe storage; and closed loopholes for background checks, gun show sales, and ghost guns).

**State bans are effective:** States with restrictions on magazine size experience mass shootings at less than half the rate of states without restrictions.<sup>21</sup> There are numerous studies that confirm that the federal assault weapons ban (1994-2004) was effective. Studies concluded that the risk of dying in a mass shooting was 70% lower than in the following decade after Congress killed the effort to extend it.<sup>22</sup> According to a study published in *Applied Economics Letters*, “[I]t was found that assault weapons bans in the states that approved them reduced the number of school shooting victims by 54.4%.”<sup>23</sup> Similarly, a Johns Hopkins University study stated, “We found very encouraging

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<sup>19</sup> Source: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2022/06/02/remarks-by-president-biden-on-gun-violence-in-america/#:~:text=The%20damage%20was%20so%20devastating,and%20those%20under%20restraining%20orders.>

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Source: “A ‘good guy with a gun’ doesn’t stand much of a chance against an AR-15 style rifle and body armor,” Ralph A. Weber, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 6/14/2022.

<sup>21</sup> Source: Louis Klarevas, Andrew Conner, and David Hemenway, “The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017,” *American Journal of Public Health* 109, no. 12 (2019): 1754–61, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305311>).

<sup>22</sup> Source: “Did the assault weapons ban of 1994 bring down mass shootings? Here’s what the data tells us,” Michael J. Klein, Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery, New York University, *The Conversation*, 6/8/22, <https://theconversation.com/did-the-assault-weapons-ban-of-1994-bring-down-mass-shootings-heres-what-the-data-tells-us-184430>

<sup>23</sup> Source: “The effects of state and Federal gun control laws on school shootings,” Mark Gius, *Applied Economics Letters*, 4/19/2017, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13504851.2017.1319555>

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effects. ... On a per capita basis, we see a 70% lower rate of individuals killed in mass shootings associated with state bans of [high-capacity magazines].<sup>24</sup>

**No “magic bullet:”** No legislation will ever stop illegal gun sales. That's up to law enforcement and the courts,

## Bans are Legal and Minnesotans Want Them

**Heller v. District of Columbia:** On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed by a vote of 5 to 4 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *Heller v. District of Columbia*, and established that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess firearms for self-defense in the home.<sup>25</sup> The Court also specified that this protection extends to “arms” in common use for lawful purposes, such as self-defense, and that handguns are “arms” for the purposes of the Second Amendment. The decision carved out exceptions for “dangerous and unusual weapons” that are “predominantly useful in military service.”<sup>26</sup> In addition to the District of Columbia, the following ten states have bans on the sale of assault weapons including AR-15-style rifles and high-capacity magazines:

California	Maryland	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Massachusetts	Washington
Delaware	New Jersey	
Illinois	New York	

While Colorado, Oregon, and Vermont do not ban assault weapons, they have enacted bans on high-capacity magazines.

**Bans have withstood court challenges:** Since the adoption of the first state ban almost four decades ago (California, 1989), bans have survived court challenges. Since the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to hear appeals challenging the assault weapon bans in the following states, this has upheld lower court rulings that substantiated the constitutionality of state bans:

- Connecticut
- New York
- Maryland

<sup>24</sup> “Policies That Reduce Gun Violence: Restricting Large Capacity Magazines,” Daniel Webster, *Johns Hopkins University*, 5/24, 2021, <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2021/policies-that-reduce-gun-violence-restricting-large-capacity-magazines#:~:text=Our%20estimate%20was%20that%20laws,is%20licensing%20for%20firearm%20purchasers%20>.

<sup>25</sup> Thom Hartmann argues in *The Hidden History of Guns and the Second Amendment* that the Second Amendment was originally intended to prevent standing armies, not to guarantee an individual right to bear arms for self-defense. He claims the amendment’s purpose was later reshaped to maintain the institution of slavery through armed slave patrols and to facilitate the genocide of Native Americans. Hartmann highlights how the National Rifle Association and conservative courts, like with the *Heller* decision, distorted the amendment's original meaning to create the modern gun rights framework and to break the power of the gun lobby.

<sup>26</sup> Source: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>

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- Illinois
- Rhode Island
- District of Columbia

**Minnesota voters and organizations want a ban:** A 2022 poll found that 54% of Minnesota voters wanted a ban on assault weapons, and 57% favored stopping the sale of high-capacity magazines.<sup>27</sup> Gov. Walz has also voiced his strong support.<sup>28, 29</sup> Recently, 10 organizations stated support for a state ban for the 9/15/25 hearing of the Minnesota Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group, including 3 medical groups with a total of 14,000 members, and the following:<sup>30</sup>

- Children’s Defense Fund Minnesota
- Minnesota Parent-Teacher Associations
- School psychologists, Jessie Kember, Ph.D., Anna Li, Ph.D., and Mollie Weeks, Ph.D.
- Multicultural Autism Action Network
- Protect Minnesota
- Giffords Law Center
- Moms Demand Action

**Effectiveness of buy-back programs:** According to an article in *The Journalist’s Resource*, “On their own, buybacks might not be effective if the goal is to use them to directly reduce violent crime. But research shows buybacks can help if they’re part of a broader effort to reduce gun violence. They can also influence public perception of how authorities are dealing with gun violence and serve as opportunities to educate communities about gun violence reduction strategies, according to researchers.”<sup>31</sup> Also, a voluntary buy-back program can minimize the economic impact of the ban.

## Ban Opponents’ Belief: It’s a Mental Health Issue, not a Gun Issue

**Opponents argue that guns are not the problem; mental health is:** As mentioned above, opponents argue that it’s not a gun issue; it’s a mental health issue. However, the United States is not the only country with mental illness, domestic violence, violent video games, or hate-fueled ideologies; but our gun homicide rate (all gun homicides, not just mass shootings) is 26 times higher than our peer countries.<sup>32</sup> The difference is

<sup>27</sup> Source: “New MinnPost poll shows majority support for stronger gun laws in the state following Uvalde massacre,” [Greta Kaul](https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2022/06/new-minnpost-poll-shows-majority-support-for-stronger-gun-laws-in-the-state-following-uvalde-massacre/), *MinnPost*, 06/10/2022, <https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2022/06/new-minnpost-poll-shows-majority-support-for-stronger-gun-laws-in-the-state-following-uvalde-massacre/>

<sup>28</sup> Source: “Walz makes gun control central to pitch for third term: In Congress, Gov. Tim Walz received an “A” rating from the NRA. Now he wants action to curb gun violence,” Allison Kite, *Minnesota Star Tribune*, 9/17/2025, <https://www.startribune.com/a-look-at-walzs-political-evolution-on-guns-as-he-launches-governor-bid/601475196>

<sup>29</sup> Source: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2025/09/19/gov-walz-interview-running-for-third-term>

<sup>30</sup> Source: <https://www.senate.mn/schedule/senate/20250917>

<sup>31</sup> Source: “Gun buybacks: What the research says,” Clark Merrefield, *The Journalist’s Resource*, 10/21/22, <https://journalistsresource.org/health/gun-buybacks-what-the-research-says/#:~:text=Early%20research%20on%20gun%20buybacks,reduction%20strategies%2C%20according%20to%20researchers.>

<sup>32</sup> Source: [GunPolicy.org](https://gunpolicy.org)

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easy access to guns. In fact, even within the US, states with weaker gun laws and higher gun ownership rates have higher rates of mass shootings.<sup>33</sup>

**Claiming it's a mental health issue is just a dodge:** Not surprisingly, handguns are the cause of most of the casualties of gun violence; however, since assault weapons with high-capacity magazines are the weapon of choice for most mass shooters, bans can be effective by making it more difficult for potential shooters to obtain these weapons of war. Claiming it's a mental health issue is just a dodge. With the votes of the entire Republican delegation from Minnesota in 2025, Congressional Republicans cut \$11.4 billion from various mental and behavioral health services initiated under the Biden Administration.<sup>34</sup> Blaming inadequate mental health services is just bait-and-switch propaganda from the gun industry and the NRA.

**Trump Administration cuts:** During the previous Biden Administration, a program under the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) funded local, community-level initiatives to prevent online radicalization, including in Minnesota (primarily in Minneapolis). The CP3 program emphasizes a public health-informed, "whole-of-society" approach that integrates various community resources to build resilience against radicalization and extremist propaganda. However, the Trump Administration eliminated funding for grants that had been active under CP3. As a result, Minnesota lost federal violence prevention grants in 2025.<sup>35</sup>

**Our epidemic of mass shootings is a direct result of our lax gun laws:** A 2024 study published by the Rockefeller Institute of Government concluded that the US suffered 109 public mass shootings between 2000 and 2022, compared to a total of 35 in 35 other, similarly developed countries (refer to the below chart).<sup>36</sup> Our health problems aren't 109 times greater than in these 35 other countries. Our epidemic of mass shootings is a direct result of our lax gun laws, and especially our unique availability of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Given that there are more guns in

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<sup>33</sup> Source: "State Gun Laws, Gun Ownership, and Mass Shootings in the US: Cross Sectional Time Series," Paul M. Reeping et al., *BMJ* 364 (March 2019): 1542, <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.l542>.

<sup>34</sup> Source: "NAMI Statement on Final Passage of Bill Cutting Medicaid for Millions of American," *National Alliance on Mental Illness*, 7/3/2025, [https://www.nami.org/press-releases/nami-deep-concern-over-final-passage-of-bill/#:~:text=NAMI%20Statement%20on%20Final%20Passage,Alliance%20on%20Mental%20Illness%20\(NAMI](https://www.nami.org/press-releases/nami-deep-concern-over-final-passage-of-bill/#:~:text=NAMI%20Statement%20on%20Final%20Passage,Alliance%20on%20Mental%20Illness%20(NAMI)

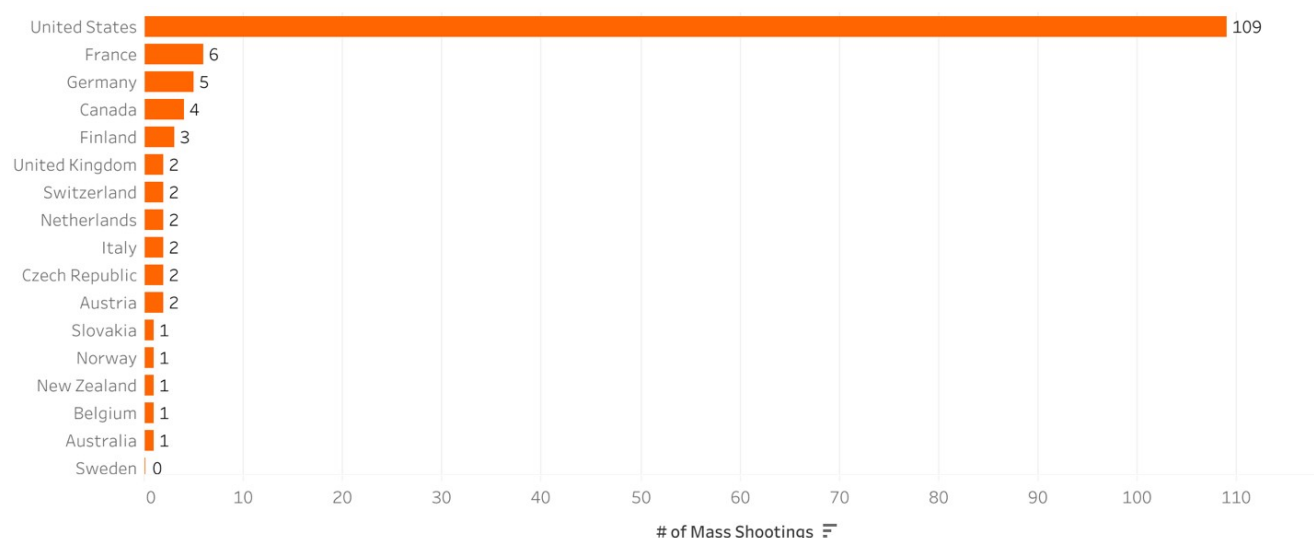
35

Source: "Trump administration cut funding to shooting prevention programs in Minnesota weeks before school shooting: In Minnesota, \$800,000 in federal grants to local agencies, including the state Department of Public Safety and Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, were cut last month, undermining efforts to prevent mass violence," *Independent*, Eric Keller, 8/30/2025, <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-administration-cut-shooting-prevention-minnesota-b2817112.html#>

<sup>36</sup> Source: "Public Mass Shootings Around the World: Prevalence, Context, and Prevention," Jason R. Silva, 2/20/24, *Rockefeller Institute of Government*, <https://rockinst.org/blog/public-mass-shootings-around-the-world-prevalence-context-and-prevention/>

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circulation than people in America, if more guns led to fewer violent crimes, America would be the safest place in the world.



**Antidepressants are not at the root of mass shooters:** The gun lobby argues that antidepressants (SSRIs,<sup>37</sup>) are at the root of mass shooters. According to a recent article in *Psychiatric Times*, “[t]here is little or no evidence showing that perpetrators of mass shootings are more likely than those in the general public to have used, or to have been prescribed, antidepressants prior to the shooting.”<sup>38</sup>

**The argument that mass shooters are “crazy lone gunmen:”** The internet and the “dark web” have made it much easier for radicalizers to find and identify people who might have feelings of isolation and loneliness, stress, anxiety or rejection; and be easily influenced and drawn into extremist behavior. The argument allows the public and policymakers to avoid more difficult conversations about other, more significant factors that contribute to mass shootings. These include access to firearms, violent political rhetoric, toxic masculinity, social grievances, and the desire for notoriety through copycat acts. The following addresses this false notion:

- **People with mental illness are far more likely to be the victims, not the perpetrators:** A 2023 study published in *Psychiatric Times* found that if all violence attributable to mental disorders were eliminated, 95% to 97% of violent behavior would remain.<sup>39</sup> People with mental illness are far more likely to be the victims of

<sup>37</sup> SSRI stand for Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors, which are a class of medications used to treat mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD).

<sup>38</sup> Source: “No, Antidepressants Do Not Provoke Mass Shootings,”

James L. Knoll IV, MD, Ronald W. Pies, MD, *Psychiatric Times*, 9/12/25, <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/view/no-antidepressants-do-not-provoke-mass-shootings#>

<sup>39</sup> Source: “Mass Shootings’ Relationship to Mental Illness,” John J. Miller, MD, *Psychiatric Times*, 2/15/2024, <https://www.psychiatrictimes.com/authors/john-j-miller-md>

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violence than the perpetrators. After a shooting, commentators and media often point to mental health as the central cause. This frame fits the common perception that people with serious mental illness are dangerous, and it provides a simple explanation for incomprehensible violence.

- **The “Lone Gunman” component:** This aspect of the narrative portrays the shooter as an isolated and solitary figure who acts alone, detached from any broader movement or ideology. This framing focuses solely on individual pathology rather than systemic issues.

## Impact on Law-Abiding Owners

**Minimal impact on current law-abiding owners of assault weapons:** Opponents argue that a ban penalizes law-abiding, assault-weapon owners. The bills introduced in the Legislature for several years now have very limited effects on current law-abiding, legal owners:

- 1) They call for registration not confiscation.
- 2) They would prohibit the transfer or sale of the weapon except to licensed dealers. This includes inheritance.
- 3) They are based on existing bans in ten states, and are consistent with current state and federal laws and regulations.
- 4) Minnesota’s most current, not-yet-approved bills (SF 1596/HF 2449 for 2025) include a statewide buy-back program.

**Current restrictions:** Some owners of legal assault weapon oppose a ban because they believe that once the state knows what they own due to registration, confiscation might follow. However, there are already very specific restrictions in current law regarding the sale, transfer, registration, Universal Background Checks (UBC),<sup>40</sup> record keeping, where the weapons can be carried and stored, and penalties for violating the law.<sup>41</sup> (The section below, “Current Restrictions on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines,” provides more detail.)

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<sup>40</sup> The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) identifies individuals who are prohibited from receiving firearms by checking databases that contain information on people who are prohibited under federal or state law. This is done to prevent firearms from being sold to individuals who are legally disqualified, such as those with a felony conviction, a history of domestic violence, being a fugitive, or having a court order restraining them from a partner or child. The system is managed by the FBI and requires a background check when a person attempts to purchase a firearm.

<sup>41</sup> Minnesota does not have a central registry of firearms, so there is no state form that records the serial number of an assault weapon for a state registry. Permits to purchase a “semiautomatic military-style assault weapon” are required in Minnesota because of the state’s universal background check law, which went into effect on 8/1/2023. This law requires a “Permit to Purchase” to buy these firearms, in addition to other types of firearms like pistols. Before this date, a permit was not required. Currently, the serial number is recorded during the transfer process whether the sale is from a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) or between private parties. The FFL dealer and both parties of a private purchase will record the permit number and the firearm’s serial number for their internal records, and keep it for at least ten years.

**Sane vehicular control vs. sane gun control:** We know that motor vehicle laws save lives. They've cut the traffic death toll over the decades by a stunning 90% per mile traveled.<sup>42</sup> Common-sense gun regulations and assault weapons bans also save lives (refer to the section on the effectiveness of assault weapons bans). Car owners must have liability insurance, and their vehicle must be registered and meet safety standards (e.g., seat belts and airbags). Drivers must be trained and pass tests in order to get a license that needs periodic renewal. And they have to abide by traffic laws like speed limits. If a driver has a desire to drive 150 mph, he or she can go to a race track and pay to drive a car built and regulated for that purpose.<sup>43</sup> Minnesota should start treating assault weapons like race cars. Unless you are in law enforcement or the military, it should be illegal to buy one in the future and use it for regular "street use." Just as race cars are designed to go as fast as possible in the shortest amount of time, assault weapons are designed to kill as many people as possible in the shortest amount of time. You don't need a race car to go to the grocery store. You don't need an assault weapon for hunting or self-defense.

**Firing options:** Since current proposed bills that ban assault weapons require registration (i.e., "grandfathering"), not confiscation, current legal owners of assault weapons could continue to fire their weapons at gun ranges and wherever it's legally allowed. Minnesota allows certain gun ranges to rent, for on-site-use only, a wide range of even fully-automatic, military weapons to people as young as 16 because certain federally licensed dealers are exempt from the state's general prohibition on these weapons.<sup>44</sup> A bill detailing an assault weapon ban could change the Minnesota regulations for these gun ranges to include on-site rental and use of the weapons included in an assault weapon ban so that those who don't own a "grandfathered" weapon and are prohibited from buying one after the ban goes into effect could fire them. Thus, a ban would have no effect on legal owners' rights to fire their weapons, and others could fire them at an appropriately licensed gun range.

## Ban Opponents' Belief: We Should Harden Schools and Have Armed School Resource Officers or Teachers

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<sup>42</sup> Source: National Safety Council, <https://injuryfacts.nsc.org/motor-vehicle/historical-fatality-trends/deaths-and-rates/>

<sup>43</sup> A race car is illegal for road use because it lacks federally mandated features found on street-legal vehicles.

<sup>44</sup> This is made possible by a specific exception in Minnesota Statutes § 609.67. All federally regulated weapons, including machine guns, are also subject to federal law and oversight by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. For example, at Bill's Gun Shop and Range, shooters 16 & 17 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. This federally licensed range offers over 40 different, fully-automatic machine guns. Source: <https://billsgs.com/rentals/#:~:text=Available%20Firearms-,Range%20Rentals,not%20included%20in%20this%20price.>



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**Armed guards in schools will not deter outside gun violence:** Opponents, including the Minnesota Gun Owners' Caucus, argue that more school resource officers (SROs) and armed guards is the answer to prevent school shootings. This is the statement from the Solutions Not Suspensions Coalition to the Senate Gun Violence Prevention Workgroup, 9/15/25: "We firmly believe that introducing more School Resource Officers (SROs) and armed guards into our educational institutions will not deter outside gun violence. The reality is that school shootings have continued to escalate alongside a national increase in both gun violence and the presence of armed personnel in schools. This correlation suggests that simply adding more firearms to school environments is not an effective preventative measure. Instead, it risks creating a more hostile and intimidating atmosphere for students and staff, while failing to address the root causes of violence. One study found that the death rate during shooting incidents in schools that had an armed guard present was nearly three times as high as during shooting incidents in schools without an armed guard."<sup>45</sup>

**Gun rights groups are not always truthful:** The Minnesota Gun Owners' Caucus submitted a proposal in September 2025 to the Senate Gun Violence Prevention Working Group that supported the following strategies instead of a ban: increased mental health access, fostering community-based interventions, implementing smart security and threat assessment infrastructure. They opposed any strategy that cost state funds or had any impact on legal gun owners. They argued that assault weapon bans are ineffective by stating that California, which has had a ban since 1989, has "experienced more mass shootings than any other state." However, when accounting for mass shootings on a per-capita basis, California is in 27<sup>th</sup> place nationally.<sup>46</sup>

**"Packaging" the assault-weapons ban bill:** Instead of "either/or," a "both/and" approach is best. We should advocate for the assault weapons ban, but also recognize that investments in increased mental health resources, improved school safety (e.g., entrances secured by fob controls), and increased penalties for general gun assaults (not just assault weapons) are needed too.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Source: "Presence of Armed School Officials and Fatal and Nonfatal Gunshot Injuries During Mass School Shootings, United States, 1980-2019," *Students Demand Action*, <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2776515>

<sup>46</sup> Source: "These Are the States with the Highest Rates of Mass Shootings," Haley Weiss, *Time Magazine*, 7/26/2023, <https://time.com/6298190/these-are-the-states-with-the-highest-rates-of-mass-shootings/>

<sup>47</sup> Governor Walz's September proposal for a special session listed 9 policies and appropriations that he wanted approved during the session. All three of the above-listed measures were included in the Governor's proposal:

1. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazine ban.
2. Binary trigger ban.
3. Eliminate the ghost gun loophole.
4. Strengthen Extreme Risk Protection Orders, including increased funding for public outreach and education.
5. Expand school safety funding.
6. Increase funding for mental health treatment.
7. Strengthen prohibitions against domestic abusers to ensure they do not have access to firearms (HF 391).

## Support for a State Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

However, the practice of adding aspects that are not directly related to the purpose of a bill is constrained by the “single subject” clause in the state Constitution. Article 4, Section 17 states that, “No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title.” The primary goal of this rule is to prevent “logrolling” (combining unrelated provisions to force a majority vote), and to ensure transparency. It would seem that increased penalties for “general gun assaults” could be added to the Mohamed bill, but adding the funding required for “increased mental health resources and improved school safety” may be prohibited by the Constitution.

## Current Restrictions on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

**Current restrictions on assault weapons:** It is illegal to transfer military-style assault weapons without a background check. People who are ineligible to possess military-style assault weapons include the following (these are a selection of the general categories that don’t reflect the specifics and exceptions):

- Younger than 18
- Convicted of a crime of violence
- Mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or chemically dependent
- An “illegal alien”
- A veteran with a dishonorable discharge
- A person subject to an “extreme risk” protection order

**Permits vs. registration:** Minnesota does not have a statewide gun registration system. Instead, the state issues two types of permits that affect people, subject to a background check. One allows eligible people to purchase and transfer firearms including assault weapons, and the other allows people to carry handguns on their person (open or concealed) or in a vehicle. Restrictions apply. Long guns (e.g., hunting rifles) and shotguns do not require a permit. The approval of an assault weapon ban would require the creation of a state registry of the firearms a permit holder owns.

**2023 and 2024 legislation:** Democratic Party control of both branches of the Legislature and the Governor’s Office (“DFL trifecta”) enabled the approval of numerous “common-sense” gun control measures:

- **Universal background checks:** This law expanded background check provisions to cover private party transfers of pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons through either a federally-licensed firearms dealer or the transferee permitting process. Both parties must retain a copy of the record of transfer for up

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8. Increase criminal penalties for violent offenses committed with a firearm and increased penalties for impersonating a police officer.

9. Increased funding for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension’s Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team.

## Support for a State Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

to ten years. There are a number of exclusions to this requirement, including but not limited to a private party transfer between immediate family members (spouses, domestic partners, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, or grandchildren). This policy became effective August 1, 2023.

- **Extreme risk protection orders:** This law allowed a family or household member, guardian, chief law enforcement officer, city attorney, or county attorney to petition a court for relief via an extreme risk protection order, if they believe that an individual posed a significant danger of bodily harm to self or others or was at significant risk of suicide by possessing a firearm. If granted by the court, the individual could be prohibited from possessing a firearm for up to one year, subject to renewal or extension. This policy became effective on January 1, 2024.
- **BCA funding:** This law provided additional funding for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to fight violent crime and improve lab analysis.
- **Binary trigger ban:** This law banned binary triggers. These are modifications that enable a firearm to fire on both the pull and the release of the trigger.
- **Straw purchase penalties:** A straw purchase is when someone buys a firearm on behalf of someone else who is not legally allowed to purchase or own a firearm. The new law makes straw purchasing a felony-level offense in Minnesota.

**Bills that did not pass:** Despite the DFL trifecta, bans on semi-automatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines were not passed by the legislature in 2023 or 2024. Bills on safe storage and lost/stolen firearm reporting, while passed by the House in 2024, failed in the Senate.

## Other

**Controlling lethality of the rounds instead of a weapons ban:** Some have argued that controlling the lethality of the rounds instead of a weapons ban would be more politically adoptable and effective. However, AR-15-style rifles are designed for center-fire cartridges. The Remington .223 has virtually the same power as the 5.56 NATO round. To fire the much less powerful rim-fired, .22LR round would take a conversion kit. I However, the AR-15 relies on high-pressure gas from a standard cartridge to operate its bolt carrier group, and reducing this pressure to “less lethal” levels typically prevents the firearm from automatically loading the next round. This would mean a shooter would have to re-cock the rifle after firing each round.

**Need to be a part of an armed insurrection:** As mentioned above, some gun-rights voters harbor a deep fear and resentment against government, both federal and local. They believe they need their legally obtained assault weapons

## Support for a State Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

to defend themselves, their families, and their property in the event a tyrannical government attempts to confiscate them, or attack their civil and property rights. A Rand study clearly concluded that an armed insurrection could not win when faced with the full force of the modern U.S. military.<sup>48</sup> These are the main reasons:

- **Military superiority:** The U.S. military has a vast arsenal of advanced weaponry, including tanks, attack helicopters, drones, a modern navy and air force, advanced intelligence and surveillance systems, and robust communication networks. Civilian firearms, including assault weapons, are no match for this level of force.
- **Logistical disadvantages:** An insurrection force would lack a dedicated military manufacturing base, sustainable supply lines for ammunition and other necessities, and formal organizational leadership, all of which are critical for any sustained conflict.
- **Organizational and command structure:** The military is a highly trained and organized force sworn to follow legal orders. A civilian insurrection would face significant challenges in coordination and command compared to a professional military organization.
- **Historical context:** Historically, successful revolutions or large-scale insurrections have almost always involved significant defection of professional soldiers and officers, or substantial foreign assistance. A purely civilian force, regardless of their weaponry, would lack the necessary experience and structure for success.

## Resources

- Websites with multiple resources:
  - o Moms Demand Action/Students Demand Action
  - o Every Town for Gun Safety
  - o Brady United
  - o Giffords, Emma Brown
  - o March for Our Lives
  - o Protect Minnesota
  - o Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
  - o Violence Policy Center
- Two *Washington Post* articles provide graphic explanations of the grizzly effects of high-powered, assault-weapon rounds:

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<sup>48</sup> “Paths to Victory: Detailed Insurgency Case Studies,” [Christopher Paul, Colin P. Clarke, Beth Grill, Molly Dunigan, Rand Research](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR291z2.html#:~:text=In%2Ddepth%20case%20studies%20of,Victory:%20Lessons%20from%20Modern%20Insurgencies), 9/26/ 2013, [https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR291z2.html#:~:text=In%2Ddepth%20case%20studies%20of,Victory:%20Lessons%20from%20Modern%20Insurgencies](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR291z2.html#:~:text=In%2Ddepth%20case%20studies%20of,Victory:%20Lessons%20from%20Modern%20Insurgencies).

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- o [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-force-mass-shootings/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_2&itid=lk\\_inline\\_manual\\_2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-force-mass-shootings/?itid=lk_inline_manual_2&itid=lk_inline_manual_2)
- o [https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=lk\\_inline\\_enhanced-template](https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/ar-15-damage-to-human-body/?itid=lk_inline_enhanced-template)
- Violence Prevention Working Group, [https://assets.senate.mn/working\\_group/2025-2026/1605\\_Senate\\_Gun\\_Violence\\_Prevention\\_Working\\_Group/VPPRC-Research-Summary.pdf](https://assets.senate.mn/working_group/2025-2026/1605_Senate_Gun_Violence_Prevention_Working_Group/VPPRC-Research-Summary.pdf)
- Dr. Heather Cox Richardson's excellent history of gun violence:  
[https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/april-19-2021?token=eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoyNDcxNTcwOSwicG9zdF9pZCI6MzUzNjQ5MDEsIl8iOiJVQUVZeCI6ImlhZCI6MTYxODkyNDkyNywiZXhwIjoxNjE4OTI4NTI3LCJpc3MiOiJwdWItMjA1MzMtMiLCJzdWIiOiJwb3N0LXJlYWN0aW9uIn0.JqcHC-BUDAUcQRWCA3KifwxR-dM5UVkmwdBwRG5VHKE&utm\\_source=substack&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=share](https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com/p/april-19-2021?token=eyJ1c2VyX2lkIjoyNDcxNTcwOSwicG9zdF9pZCI6MzUzNjQ5MDEsIl8iOiJVQUVZeCI6ImlhZCI6MTYxODkyNDkyNywiZXhwIjoxNjE4OTI4NTI3LCJpc3MiOiJwdWItMjA1MzMtMiLCJzdWIiOiJwb3N0LXJlYWN0aW9uIn0.JqcHC-BUDAUcQRWCA3KifwxR-dM5UVkmwdBwRG5VHKE&utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email&utm_content=share)
- Dr. Marc Gorelick, pediatric leader
- Dr. Tim Kummer, ER physician
- Michelle Morse-Wendt, educator
- Tess Rada, parent and advocate