

Roberta DiMezza

From: William Bartels <bbartels123@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:36 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Cc: Rep. McEntee, Carol Hagan
Subject: Progressive against Assault Weapons Ban

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear members of the committee. Though I maintain my political affiliation as an independent, I am a progressive, I vote in Democratic primaries, I have not voted for a Republican at any level in decades and am very unlikely to do so in the foreseeable future. I am also NOT a gun owner and I'm against gun violence of all kinds. I had no problem with the recent limit on magazine capacity, the red flag law, or the safe storage law.

But I am against the assault weapons ban because it will be largely ineffective, might give a false sense of having "solved" the problem, and will have discriminatory effects, especially on racial minorities, women, and the LGBTQ community who feel more and more the need to have firearms to protect themselves in this atmosphere of animosity and threatened aggression by right-wing groups who already have many more such weapons.

As to ineffective, the definition of assault weapon is based almost entirely on secondary characteristics that have little impact on their actual function. It will still be possible to legally obtain firearms with practically the same function, but it will be more expensive to do so. You might think that is a good thing but it will lead to the discriminatory effects on the groups mentioned above who feel outnumbered and definitely outgunned.

Rather than go down the path of this ban, I support broader based anti-violence measures that have a proven track record. Here is a link to a piece about one example
: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/11/22/community-programs-reduce-gun-violence/>

I share your desire to reduce gun violence of all kinds but disagree that this bill is the way to go about it.

Thank you,

Bill Bartels
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