



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Assault weapons are military-style guns designed  
3 and manufactured for the sole purpose of killing the largest  
4 number of people in the shortest amount of time possible; and

5 WHEREAS, Military-style assault weapons are the guns of  
6 choice for criminals, enabling them to commit some of America's  
7 deadliest crimes, including the 1989 Stockton, California  
8 schoolyard shooting, the 1999 massacre at Columbine High  
9 School, and the 2002 DC-area sniper attacks; and

10 WHEREAS, Military-style assault weapons threaten the  
11 safety of America's law enforcement officers, having been used  
12 to kill one in five officers slain in the line of duty between  
13 1998 and 2001, according to FBI statistics; and

14 WHEREAS, International terrorist organizations urge their  
15 recruits to exploit America's lax gun laws and arm themselves  
16 with military-style assault weapons; and

17 WHEREAS, The United States Congress in 1994, recognizing  
18 the grave threat to public safety posed by the continued  
19 availability to civilians of military-style assault weapons,  
20 banned the manufacture and sale of specific models of assault  
21 weapons; and

22 WHEREAS, Since 1994 many gun manufacturers have ignored the  
23 spirit of the law by manufacturing "copycat" guns nearly  
24 identical to those banned but for minor cosmetic changes; and

25 WHEREAS, The federal ban on military-style assault  
26 weapons, which was enacted on September 13, 1994, contained a  
27 sunset provision providing for the automatic repeal of the ban  
28 ten years following that date, or September 13, 2004; and

1           WHEREAS, As a result of the 1994 assault weapons ban,  
2 domestic manufacturers are prohibited from manufacturing or  
3 selling new high capacity magazines (except for a limited  
4 number of magazines for police, military, and nuclear plant  
5 protection use); and

6           WHEREAS, The 1994 high capacity magazine ban did not apply  
7 to foreign magazines, and between September of 1994 and  
8 December of 2000, 47.3 million large magazines were approved  
9 for importation for civilian use, from 50 different countries;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, The federal ban does not affect firearms designed  
12 for hunting or other legitimate sporting uses; and

13           WHEREAS, The federal courts and U.S. Attorney General John  
14 Ashcroft have declared the federal assault weapons ban to be  
15 constitutional and in no way an infringement on the Second  
16 Amendment; and

17           WHEREAS, Military-style assault weapons should be  
18 completely and permanently eliminated from our streets and our  
19 communities; therefore, be it

20           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Senate urges the  
22 United States Congress and the President of the United States  
23 to renew and strengthen the federal ban on military-style  
24 assault weapons, closing the loopholes that have allowed gun  
25 manufacturers to continue to design, manufacture, market and  
26 sell to civilians military-style assault weapons; and be it  
27 further

28           RESOLVED, That assault weapon ban reauthorization contain  
29 a large capacity ammunition magazine import ban consistent with  
30 the domestic ban on large capacity ammunition magazines.