

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO
FURTHER REGULATE FIREARMS INCLUDING AN ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN
FROM THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF HATBORO-HORSHAM SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND THE HATBORO-HORSHAM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
JUNE 6, 2022

WHEREAS, since 1999, there have been 331 school shootings on K-12 campuses during the school day, murdering at least 185 children and educators, including the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre on December 14, 2012, where 20 first-grade children and 6 educators were murdered, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School mass shooting on February 14, 2018, killing 17 students and educators, and the Robb Elementary School mass murder of 19 children and 2 educators on May 24, 2022¹; and

WHEREAS, at least 311,000 students were present during these shootings²; and

WHEREAS, there has been an average of more than five school shootings per month in 2022³; and

WHEREAS, assault weapons, as defined by Pennsylvania House Bill 770 of 2021 have been used in the majority of the school shootings including Sandy Hook Elementary School, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and Robb Elementary School⁴; and

WHEREAS, when the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 was in place, mass shootings decreased by 43%⁵; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 expired without renewal or replacement in 2004⁶; and

WHEREAS, deaths due to gun massacres dropped by 43% while the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 was in effect and rose by 239% after its expiration⁷; and

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/local/school-shootings-database/>

² Id.

³ <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/24/1101050970/2022-school-shootings-so-far>

⁴ <https://apnews.com/article/uvalde-school-shooting-buffalo-supermarket-texas-d1415e5a50eb85a50d5464970a225b2d>;

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2021&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0770&pn=0758>

⁵ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2012/12/17/everything-you-need-to-know-about-banning-assault-weapons-in-one-post/>

⁶ Id.; <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/5946127/ns/politics/t/congress-lets-assault-weapons-ban-expire/#.WozqS5MeGQ>

⁷ <https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/press/dem/releases/studies-gun-massacre-deaths-dropped-during-assault-weapons-ban-increased-after-expiration>; Rampage Nation: Securing America from Mass Shootings (2016)

WHEREAS, in 2004, at the expiration of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban of 1994, there were approximately 8.5 million AR-15 semi-automatic rifles in circulation in the United States of America, and on this date, there are approximately 19.8 million AR-15 semi-automatic rifles in circulation in the country⁸;

WHEREAS, seven (7) states in the country have an assault weapons ban, but Pennsylvania does not⁹; and

WHEREAS, the District is entrusted with the health and safety of our students and District employees; and

WHEREAS, current Pennsylvania law prohibits local municipalities from enacting regulations on firearms¹⁰; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Hatboro-Horsham School District and the Hatboro-Horsham Education Association call upon Congress and the Pennsylvania General Assembly to enact legislation that further regulates firearms, including but not limited to legislation that prohibits the possession, use, control, manufacture, and sale of assault weapons as defined by Pennsylvania House Bill 770 of 2021, as well as high-capacity magazines, and bump stocks.

Adopted this 6th day of June, 2022.

Signed,

David Brown, Board President

Bill Stone, Board Secretary

Bryan Moore, HHEA President

⁸ <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-20-million-ar-15-style-rifles-in-circulation-2022-5>

⁹ <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/assault-weapons/>

¹⁰ 18 Pa. C.S. §6120; Ortiz v. Commonwealth (Pa. 1996)