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# PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

## Issue Brief on Banning Large-capacity Ammunition and Weapons

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### THE PROBLEM

*A Public Health Crisis:* Gun violence is a preventable public health tragedy. Gun violence kills one Oregonian on average every day of the year — twice as many as auto accidents. The rate of Oregon gun deaths exceeds the national average.

*A Moral Issue:* We should be safe in our communities. Common-sense laws will reduce gun violence without infringing on people's rights. No single solution will stop every death, but smarter policies will reduce gun violence and make us safer.

### THE SOLUTIONS: TWO BILLS TO ADVANCE SAFETY

#### **Solution #1: Regulate and restrict access to assault weapons: HB 3223.**

- Large-capacity weapons make it too easy to inflict fatal damage in a short period of time. They make intervention in mass shootings even harder.
- There is no need for civilians to have military-style rifles.

#### **Solution #2: Ban use and sale of large-capacity magazines: HB 3265.**

- Limit magazines to **ten rounds**. Existing magazines can be modified or replaced.
- Large game hunting already restricts cartridges to five or fewer rounds

### ARGUMENTS FOR ACTION NOW

#### ***We are ready for safety.***

A majority of Americans consistently support laws prohibiting assault weapons. As of February 2018, 67% of Americans polled supported a ban on assault weapons.

#### ***We want our leaders to be courageous and strong.***

Standing up to the gun lobby is hard. But neither waves of cash nor armed opposition will deter those who stand with courage in calling for what's right. Where the gun lobby sows fear, we share dreams of bright futures for our nation's youth.

#### ***We are not alone.***

Other states have set examples in implementing gun safety by curtailing the use of large-capacity magazines and assault weapons, from Hawaii and California to Maryland and New York.

#### ***We are doing this for our kids.***

The strongest reasons for taking bold action for safety from gun violence are to protect the vulnerable, including future generations. This movement is driven by students from Parkland, Florida, who spurred the March for Our Lives, along with youth in cities across the country facing gun violence in their daily lives.



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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS:



## HB 3265: Ban on Large-Capacity Magazines

Large-capacity ammunition magazines (LCMs) – 30, 50 and even 100 round magazines – are the tools of choice in over 50% of the mass shootings in the past three decades.

- Newtown, CT: 30 round magazines were used; 154 rounds were fired; 26 children and teachers were killed, 2 injured
- Stockton, CA: 75 round magazines were used; 5 students were killed, 29 wounded
- Aurora, CO: 100 round magazines were used; 12 people killed, 58 wounded

Because shooters using LMCs can fire at large numbers of people without taking the time to reload, those in the line of fire do not have a chance to escape, law enforcement and even bystanders do not have the chance to intervene, and the number of lives shattered by senseless acts of gun violence increases dramatically. Incidents where assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines were used resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared to other mass shootings.

### *How Does Our Bill Address this Problem?*

**Definition:** Large-Capacity Magazines (LCMs) include all ammunition feeding devices that accept more than 10 rounds (minor exceptions).

**Prohibits use** of LCMs in Oregon upon passage.

**Prohibits possession** of LCMs after 180 days of passage. Current owners must permanently alter LCMs so they are incapable of holding more than 10 rounds OR transfer, sell, or dispose of them or remove them from Oregon. Penalty: Class A violation. *Exemptions:* Law Enforcement and Military personnel, for official duties.

**Prohibits manufacturing, purchase, transfer and sale** of LCMs in Oregon after the effective date except as provided in Act.

**Authorized dealers** have 180 days to permanently alter or dispose of magazines or to transfer/sell them out of state; Federally Licensed Dealers may sell to law enforcement/military solely for official duty use. Penalty: Class A misdemeanor.

## HB 3223: Ban on Future Sale/Manufacture of Assault Weapons; Registration of Currently Owned Weapons

Military-grade weapons have no place in civilian life and are unnecessary for self-defense. Popular among mass shooters, assault weapons pose a distinct threat to the security of Oregonians:

- Umpqua Community College, OR: 9 died; 7 injured
- Orlando, FL (Pulse Nightclub): AR-15s used; 49 people died; 53 injured
- Columbine High School: 15 students and staff died, 24 injured
- Las Vegas, NV: AR-15s used; 58 died, over 400 injured
- Parkland, FL: AR-15 used; 17 students and staff died, many others injured

Incidents where assault weapons or large-capacity magazines were used resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared to other mass shootings. At least 7 states and the District of Columbia have imposed bans and/or strict regulation of such military-style, semi-automatic weapons, upheld as permissible under the U.S. Constitution by reviewing courts.

### *How Does Our Bill Address this Problem?*

**Definition:** Assault weapons are clearly defined by: (a) types, series, and models and (b) description of generic features, related to the weapon's lethality.

**Regulation of Currently Owned Assault Weapons:**

Persons legally in possession of an assault weapon shall, within 1 year of effective date, register each weapon and pass a background check. Penalty: Class A misdemeanor; Class B misdemeanor for second offense.

**Alternatives to Registration:** Currently owned assault weapons may be permanently removed, sold to firearms dealer, destroyed or rendered permanently inoperable.

**Prohibits Future Purchase, Transfer, Sale and Manufacture** in Oregon, except with provisions for currently owned weapons, military and law enforcement personnel for official duties. Penalty: Class A misdemeanor.

**Reporting of Lost or Stolen Assault Weapons** is required within 48 hours.