

Ask Congress to Renew the Ban on Assault Weapons

July 30, 2004

Only six weeks remain before the ban on assault weapons will be removed from the public record. The ban contains a sunset clause that slates it to expire on September 13, 2004.

There has been little movement in this Congress to renew or strengthen the ban on assault weapons, even though 76 percent of Americans believe the ban must be extended. While an extension of the ban (S 2498) made it onto the Senate calendar, there has not been enough political will to bring it to a vote. Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) intends to offer an extension of the ban as an amendment to any bill that is moving through the Senate. Congress returns from its summer recess on September 7, and has scheduled only 15 days for legislative activity before it adjourns.

Contact your Members of Congress during the recess, either at home in their districts or via their Washington office. Let them know you don't want to see thousands of assault weapons coming to the streets of America after September 13th.

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As a Presbyterian, I believe that it is vitally necessary that you extend the ban on assault weapons. As Christians, we are called to create peaceful, supportive communities, and a safe world. As Presbyterians, we have stood for the eradication of gun violence and for sensible measures of gun control since 1968.

We must be compelled by our faith to demand that the ban on assault weapons be renewed and strengthened. Please vote in favor of any amendment to extend the Assault Weapons Ban. Life is too precious to allow dangerous assault weapons to flood our streets once again.