

LARSON STATEMENT ON FAILURE TO REAUTHORIZE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

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WASHINGTON, D.C.- U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-1) today issued the following statement on the assault weapons ban, which is set to expire tonight at midnight. Larson is a co-sponsor of the Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003, which would renew the ban. Once the ban expires, semiautomatic assault weapons such as AK-47s, Tec-9s and Uzis will once again be permitted on the nation's streets.

"The Republican Leadership's decision to allow the assault weapons ban to expire will make America's streets less safe and put law enforcement at greater risk," said Larson. "The weapons made illegal by the ban are designed to kill human beings as quickly as possible and have no place on our streets. Our nation's police chiefs have spoken out in strong favor of renewing the ban because these weapons represent a serious danger to their officers and our communities. The ban was not without flaws and loopholes, but it worked. Since its enactment in 1994, the number of semi-automatic assault weapons traced to crime by the ATF has declined by 66 percent. Yet despite support of renewing the ban from both Presidential candidates, many in Congress and the public, the GOP Leadership would rather let it lapse."

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