

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

November 21, 2017

Motion to Support the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017

In just the past few months, the nation has once again suffered through incredibly tragic mass shootings. On October 1, 2017, a gunman opened fire on a crowd of 22,000 concertgoers at a music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada, leaving 58 people dead and 546 injured. On November 5, 2017, a gunman opened fire on the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing 26 adults and children and injuring 20. These two events are amongst the deadliest mass shootings in this country's history.

On November 8, 2017, Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced S. 2095, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017, legislation that would ban the sale, manufacture, transfer, and importation of semiautomatic assault weapons and related devices that would allow semiautomatic weapons to function as assault weapons or automatic weapons. S. 2095 provides an exemption for assault weapons lawfully possessed at the date of enactment, and for lawful possession of these weapons by law enforcement and government entities. S. 2095 is co-sponsored by 24 senators, including Senator Kamala Harris.

The Assault Weapons Ban of 2017 is an updated and strengthened reintroduction of Senator Feinstein's 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, which was law from 1994 to 2004. According to a 2016 study on the impact of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban, during the ban's ten years, mass shootings, defined as shootings resulting in five or more deaths, dropped by 40 percent across the nation. After Congress allowed the ban to expire, there were 46 mass shootings from 2005 to 2015, compared to only 16

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mass shootings during 1994 to 2004. That is more than 2.6 times as many mass shootings, without including the mass shootings of 2016 and 2017.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a five-signature letter to Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris, and the Senate leadership in support of S. 2095, the Assault Weapons Ban of 2017.

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(FR)