



Tompkins County Legislature

Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
Ithaca, NY 14850

Meeting: 04/17/18 05:30 PM
Department: Tompkins County Legislature
Category: Public Safety
Functional Category:

SCHEDULED

RESOLUTION NO. DOC ID: 7726

1 **Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact a Law**
2 **Mirroring Provisions of the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013 that**
3 **Prohibits the Sale of Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines**

4 WHEREAS, Tompkins County is committed to the health and safety of students, school employees, and all
5 residents, and

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7 WHEREAS, it is Tompkins County's highest priority to create and maintain a respectful and healthy
8 environment and the County is, therefore, committed to reduce gun violence and fatalities; doing so is necessary to
9 helping all children thrive and remain safe at home, in school, and throughout life, and

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11 WHEREAS, in 1994, Congress passed and President Clinton signed, the Public Safety and Recreational
12 Firearms Use Protection Act, that banned the manufacture for civilian use of certain semi-automatic firearms defined
13 as assault weapons and certain ammunition magazines defined as large capacity in order to reduce crime and violence
14 in the United States, and

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16 WHEREAS, in 2004, the Act expired by operation of law and has not been renewed by Congress, and

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18 WHEREAS, due to the expiration of the Act, assault weapons may be legally sold and purchased within many
19 states, and

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21 WHEREAS, since 1999, the number of mass shootings in schools, churches, and other public places has
22 increased as the overall national crime rate has steadily declined, and

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24 WHEREAS, in the last several years, mass shooting incidents involving assault-style weapons and high-
25 volume magazines once banned by the Act have occurred in locations across the United States including Tucson,
26 Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; Newtown, Connecticut; Clackamas, Oregon; Virginia Tech University; Las Vegas, Nevada;
27 Orlando, Florida; and Parkland, Florida, and

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29 WHEREAS, hundreds of innocent children and adults have been killed or injured in these incidents, and

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31 WHEREAS, the use of semi-automatic, assault-style weapons equipped with large capacity magazines enables
32 persons intent on committing mass murder to cause far more deaths and injuries than would be possible if such
33 weapons and ammunition magazines were not available, and

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35 WHEREAS, the people of Tompkins County mourn the loss of the 17 innocent people murdered on February
36 14, 2018, at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the deadliest school shooting since 2012,
37 and

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39 WHEREAS, the firearm used to murder and injure the victims at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School was
40 an AR-15 semi-automatic assault style weapon equipped with high-capacity magazines, the same weapon used
41 repeatedly in school shootings of students and teachers, and

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43 WHEREAS, assault-style weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines are not suitable for civilian use
44 of any type and constitute a demonstrated threat to the general public and law enforcement personnel, now therefore be

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RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Public Safety Committee, That the Tompkins County Legislature urges the United States Congress to immediately enact a law mirroring the provisions of the Assault Weapons Ban of 2013 as introduced in the United States Senate that prohibits the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines,

RESOLVED, further, That the Clerk of the Legislature send copies of this resolution to Congressman Reed and to Senators Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand and request their support for the passage of the legislation.

SEQRACTION: TYPE II-20