

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

"As I have stated repeatedly, my goal has always been to pass the most effective legislation to prevent any criminal from purchasing any type of gun in any state. It is clear to me that the so-called "assault weapons" ban does not do that, and is simply a public relations exercise, not effective policy. That's why I voted against the ban in 1994. For example, at least 50% of the specific weapons banned in 1994 are available for legal sale today with only minor modification.

"We need measures that work. Current federal law prohibits any purchase of firearms by convicted felons, those dishonorably discharged, the mentally ill, aliens and others -- but there is no effective federal enforcement of the law. Fifteen states already have effective instant background check systems in place, preventing criminals from getting guns every day. One more, Pennsylvania, will have an instant check system operational soon. That's what works and that's why I have been a long-standing advocate of a nationwide instant background check. In state after state, this has proven to be the most effective way to keep guns out of the hands of criminals.

"I am not optimistic that there is sufficient support in the Senate to pass the repeal. In my view, the assault weapons ban has not worked. What we need to do is find a way to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms. After the House vote tomorrow, I will confer with my colleagues on the best course of action to ensure that the Senate advances my goal of keeping all guns out of the hands of criminals."

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