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Common Features Regulated in a Ridiculous Manner by the *Assault Weapons Ban of 2022*

The *Assault Weapon Ban of 2022* bans firearms based on extremely common characteristics and modifications, including aftermarket triggers, threaded barrels, grip-ability, and barrel shrouds as part of its definition of “Semiautomatic Assault Weapons” or SAWs.

H.R. 1808 includes many ridiculous definitions that will result in the banning of far more firearms than a cursory reading might suggest. This means millions more gunowners would be in possession of highly regulated “semiautomatic assault weapons” and be subject to this unconstitutional law than Congress might realize, should these major definitional problems fail to be exposed in debate.

Definition of “Grip”: *The term ‘pistol grip’ means a grip, a thumbhole stock or Thordsen-type grip or stock, or any other characteristic that can function as a grip.*

Why it Matters: This definition includes far more than pistol grips, instead regulating any part of a firearm “that can function as a grip.” The definition above then includes everything from a firearm’s magwell, to vertical grips, angled grips, and even attachments like a bipod. This is extremely broad and thus means that any protrusion from the stock or body of the firearm that can be used to help brace the firearm against oneself would therefore be considered a grip. Nearly every semiautomatic rifle with a detachable magazine will now have a “pistol grip,” essentially negating any of the remaining characteristics when evaluating whether a semiautomatic rifle is now a regulated semiautomatic assault weapon.

South Korea, a country with one of the highest suicide rates in the world,^[iii] has very strict gun control laws and 753 times fewer civilian firearms per 100 persons than the United States. Firearm access is not the cause for suicide among servicemembers in South Korea, and it is not the case here in the U.S. either.

Definition of Triggers: *Any part, combination of parts, component, device, attachment, or accessory that is designed or functions to accelerate the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm but not convert the semiautomatic firearm into a machinegun.*

Why it Matters: Anything that increases how fast the gun can shoot will be counted towards the definition of a SAW. The language here is so vague it could cover everything from a competition trigger that requires less force to be pulled against the trigger to an adjustable gas system which allows the user to control the amount of gas pushing back on the firearms action. This is arbitrary and, without a measurable standard, is ripe for abuse in the future to allow ATF to ban whatever the unpopular accessory of the day is.



Definition of Threaded Barrel:

The term ‘threaded barrel’ means a feature or characteristic that is designed in such a manner to allow for the attachment of a device such as a firearm silencer or a flash suppressor.

Why it Matters:

The machining on the end of a barrel that enables attachment of another item to the front is now regulated. Threading on the end of a barrel is common amongst almost all rifles and is increasingly popular on handguns because it allows the end user to attach a host of different devices such as muzzle breaks, flash hiders, and suppressors. These devices do not increase the lethality of the firearm and in many cases make it safer for the end user to shoot, whether by giving the shooter less recoil or by providing them with a clear picture of the target immediately after firing and not expelling a fireball out of the barrel.

Additionally, this definition would end suppressor use as we know it. Gun owners everywhere would be subject to these new rules that would severely impact their ability to use their suppressors in the way they see fit. By adding threaded barrels to the definition of a SAW, this new law would ensure that suppressor owners would be unable to easily utilize their property which they have already gone through much pain to own and operate.

Definition of Barrel Shroud:

The term ‘barrel shroud’—(A) means a shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel of a firearm so that the shroud protects the user of the firearm from heat generated by the barrel; and (B) does not include— (i) a slide that partially or completely encloses the barrel; or (ii) an extension of the stock along the bottom of the barrel which does not encircle or substantially encircle the barrel.

Why it Matters:

This is a ban on the aesthetics of a firearm. The barrel shroud, or anything that covers the barrel, does not increase the lethality of a firearm. In fact, the language even acknowledges that shrouds are placed to protect the end user from the heat of the barrel. This targets weapons like the AR-15, AK47, and many other semiautomatics that do not have a single piece construction that extends from the stock to the barrel.

Definition of Magazines

The term ‘large capacity ammunition feeding device’— “(A) means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device, including any such device joined or coupled with another in any manner, that has an overall capacity of, or that can be readily restored, changed, or converted to accept, more than 15 rounds of ammunition; and “(B) does not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.”

Why it Matters:

This language targets both magazines and clips over 15 rounds. Time and time again, standard capacity magazines have proved their usefulness when dealing with single threats or a group of threats. By limiting the number of rounds that a firearm owner can have at their disposal, this assault weapons ban puts self-defenders at a distinct disadvantage.