

PRESS RELEASE

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62% OF NEW MEXICANS SUPPORT ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN ACCORDING TO NEW SURVEY

Federal ban on assault weapons to expire on September 13 unless President Bush and Congress act

(**Albuquerque**) — A new survey of likely New Mexico voters found that **62%** of New Mexicans support renewing the federal assault weapons ban, and **54%** favor strengthening the ban.

Surprisingly, even NRA supporters think guns like Uzis and AK-47s should be banned

In addition, solid majorities of gun owners (**55%**), military members and their families (**62%**), union households (**64%**), and even NRA supporters (**51%**) support banning military-style firearms such as Uzis and AK-47s. Both men and women support the ban in equal numbers, at **62%** and **63%** respectively.

The Washington, D.C.-based Consumer Federation of America (CFA) and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) commissioned the survey. New Mexico Voices for Children released the findings today.

“New Mexico residents are finding common ground on ways to prevent gun violence. There isn’t any group in our survey that wants military-style assault weapons on our streets,” said Bill Jordan, Deputy Director of New Mexico Voices for Children. “George W. Bush keeps telling us he supports banning assault weapons. Time is running out for him to act. The ban enacted in 1994 expires in just 2 months, unless he acts now. The fate of the assault weapons ban is in the President’s hands.”

(more)

The poll included responses from 600 New Mexico residents, and has a margin of error of +/- 4%. Lake Snell Perry & Associates, a national research firm, conducted the survey on behalf of the Consumer Federation of America and the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence.

Promises of Support from President; No Action

Unless President Bush and Congress act, the federal ban on semi-automatic, military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition clips will expire two months from now—on September 13, 2004.

George W. Bush has repeatedly pledged his support for banning assault weapons. During the 2000 campaign, Mr. Bush said "*It makes no sense for assault weapons to be around our society.*" The White House has repeated the President's support several times, most recently in June.

But when the President had a chance to back up his words with action, he urged Congress to defeat the assault weapons ban. In March, the U.S. Senate passed a renewed ban as an amendment to a gun industry immunity bill. Rather than keep his word, the President bowed to NRA pressure and issued a Statement of Administration Policy that called the amendment "unacceptable."

"Mr. President, you have aggressively accused others of flip flopping. New Mexico voters hope you will not prove hypocritical on this important public safety issue," said Mr. Jordan.

About New Mexico Voices for Children

New Mexico Voices for Children is a statewide non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health, safety and well-being of New Mexico's children and families.

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About the Consumer Federation of America

Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is a non-profit association of 300 pro-consumer groups, which was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education.

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About the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) was founded in 1975 and is comprised of 45 civic, professional and religious organizations and 100,000 individual members working to reduce gun violence.

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