



## Bill Summary and Position Paper

# S.66

## Semi-Auto Ban

Senate Bill 66  
116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-20)

By: Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

NAGR Position: **Strongly Oppose**

Last Updated: 2/15/2019

### What the Bill Does

- Introduced by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) S.66 outlaws the sale, transfer, manufacture, and importation of common civilian owned semi-automatic firearms which are arbitrarily classified by the government as “assault weapons”<sup>1</sup>

### Why it's Bad for Gun Owners:

- S.66 outlaws thousands of commonly owned civilian firearms based only on cosmetic features that do nothing to alter the function of the firearm, but merely “look scary.” These features include folding, telescoping, or other adjustable stocks, along with pistols that weigh over 50 ounces when unloaded.<sup>2</sup>
- S.66 will prohibit all semi-automatic shotguns that can accept a detachable magazine, regardless of any other characteristics of the firearm, as well as those with a fixed magazine that can hold more than 5 rounds.<sup>3</sup>
- If your gun is semi-automatic or if it is capable of holding more than 7 rounds of ammunition, it might be an “assault weapon.” Your \$10 magazine may also be banned if it holds more than 7 rounds.<sup>4</sup>
- Semi-automatic weapons include many commercially used handguns and hunting rifles. Any firearm that can eject a shell casing and chamber the next round with a single trigger pull is semi-automatic. An 18th century muzzle loader is an example of a firearm that is not semi-automatic.<sup>5</sup>
- The term “assault weapon” is not a technical classification for firearms. The term was invented in the late 1980's by left-wing activists to include a broad range of firearms that share cosmetic attributes rather than any mechanical enhancement. In other words they just “look scary.”<sup>6</sup>

## Additional Co-Sponsors:

- Charles Schumer (D-NY) (202-224-6542)
- Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) (202-224-3244)
- Bernard Sanders (I-VT) (202-224-5141)

## Related Bills:

- H.R. 282 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress)

## References:

1. Official Bill Text and Status: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/66/text>
2. Congressional Record 116th Congress. "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions" Dianne Feinstein. 1/9/2019
3. Official Bill Text and Status: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/66/text>
4. Various state "Assault Weapon" ban laws, the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. Dictionary.com "semiautomatic"
5. Dictionary.com "semiautomatic"
6. Carney, Timothy P. "Media myths on 'assault weapons' and 'semiautomatic firearms'". Washington Examiner. 12/17/12; Sugarmann, Josh. "Assault Weapons & Accessories in America." Violence Policy Center. 1988; Federal Assault Weapon Ban Policy Briefing Book [gunfacts.info](http://gunfacts.info)

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