

STATEMENT ON ASSAULT WEAPONS  
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TODAY, I'M PLEASED TO STAND WITH THE GOVERNORS OF DELAWARE AND MARYLAND, BECAUSE THEY SHARE MY BELIEF THAT MILITARY WEAPONS MADE FOR THE FIELD OF BATTLE HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

THEY SHARE MY CONVICTION THAT WEAPONS DESIGNED TO KILL THE MOST PEOPLE IN THE SHORTEST TIME ARE A DANGEROUS THREAT TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO BE SAFE. AND WHEN OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES OUTGUNNED ON THE STREETS, THEN NO ONE IS SAFE.

I'M PROUD THAT NEW JERSEY PASSED THE TOUGHEST BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS IN THE COUNTRY. BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. AND EVEN IF GOVERNOR CASTLE AND GOVERNOR SCHAEFER PASSED EQUALLY TOUGH BANS, IT STILL WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.

WE NEED TO TAKE A UNITED STAND AGAINST THESE WEAPONS. THAT MEANS ALL THE STATES, AND IT MEANS THE FOLKS IN OUR NATION'S CAPITOL.

I URGE PRESIDENT BUSH TO LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE. THEY'RE SAYING THEY WANT THESE WEAPONS OF WAR OUT OF THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS AND OUT OF THEIR STREETS. THEY DON'T WANT THEIR KIDS GUNNED DOWN, AND THEY DON'T WANT THE POLICE IN THEIR CITIES AND TOWNS TO BE OUTGUNNED.

THE SPECIAL INTERESTS WHO FIGHT TO OWN THESE WEAPONS DON'T GET IT. THEY USE THE SAME OLD ARGUMENTS -- THE KIND THEY USED TO DEFEND ARMOR-PIERCING, COP-KILLING BULLETS -- AND EACH TIME THEY SPEND OBSCENE AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO GET THEIR WAY.

MOST PEOPLE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY, SO THEY COUNT ON THEIR PUBLIC OFFICIALS TO STAND UP FOR THEM.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE TODAY, AND WE'RE CALLING ON PRESIDENT BUSH TO WEIGH IN ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THIS ISSUE.