

# ENTERTAINMENT COMMUNITY URGES STRONGER ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

In a letter delivered today to Congress and the President, members of the entertainment community wrote:

As members of the entertainment community, we would like to express our strong support for the “Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003” (S. 1431 and H.R. 2038). This legislation would protect public safety, particularly America’s law enforcement officers, by strengthening and renewing the current assault weapons ban that is set to expire on September 13th of this year.

The gun industry has successfully evaded the current assault weapons ban enacted in 1994. They have done this by making slight, cosmetic design changes to their “post-ban” guns, a tactic the industry has dubbed “sporterization.”

In the past 10 years, the gun industry has flooded the market with these weapons. Today, “post-ban” AR-15s, AK-47s, MAC-10s, and even UZIs are legal to manufacture, buy, and sell — and are being used in crime....From 1998 through 2001, one out of five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty were killed with an assault weapon.

We know this legislation will work. It is modeled on California’s successful assault weapons ban passed in 1999. The rest of the nation deserves a law as strong as California’s.

Sincerely,

Marc Abraham • Debbie Allen • Kevin Bacon • Laurie & Bill Benenson • Loraine & Peter Boyle • Elizabeth Brooks & Larry Frazin • Shelly & Larry Brown • Jackson Browne • Susan Titelman Cooder & Ry Cooder • Jamie Lee Curtis • Alison & David Dinerstein • Carrie Fisher • Eve & Bill Gerber • Mimi Polk Gitlin & Richard Gitlin • Patricia Heaton & David Hunt • Dustin Hoffman • Helen Hunt • Anjelica Huston • Marta Kauffman & Michael Skloff • Scarlett Johansson • Jena & Michael King • Christine Lahti & Thomas Schlamme • Cyndi Lauper • Lyn & Norman Lear • Téa Leoni • William H. Macy • Samantha Mathis • Harlee McBride & Richard Belzer • Shiva Rose & Dylan McDermott • Patty Smyth McEnroe & John McEnroe • Susan & Graham Nash • Leslie Neale & John Densmore • Sally & Van Dyke Parks • Stephanie & John Perenchio • Danica & Charles Perez • Tom Petty • Robert Redford • Rob Reiner • Tim Roth • Deborah & Carlos Santana • Charlie Sheen • Brooke Shields & Chris Henchy • Nancy & Martin Short • Julia & Aaron Sorkin • Barbra Streisand • James Taylor • Heather Thomas • Cheryl Tiegs • Daena Title & Jason Alexander • Jenno Topping & Chris Moore • Don Was

PAID FOR BY

**VIOLENCE POLICY CENTER  
TRAUMA FOUNDATION**

**VIOLENCE PREVENTION COALITION OF GREATER LOS ANGELES**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE  
FULL TEXT OF THE LETTER, PLEASE VISIT

**WWW.VPC.ORG**

July 21, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the entertainment community, we would like to express our strong support for the "Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003" (S. 1431 and H.R. 2038). This legislation would protect public safety, particularly America's law enforcement officers, by strengthening and renewing the current assault weapons ban that is set to expire on September 13<sup>th</sup> of this year. It would finally ban assault weapons in America.

Unfortunately, the gun industry has successfully evaded the current assault weapons ban enacted in 1994. They have done this by making slight, cosmetic design changes to their "post-ban" guns, a tactic the industry has dubbed "sporterization." The changes necessary to evade the ban can be as simple as removing the flash suppressor from the end of a rifle barrel.

In the past 10 years, the gun industry has flooded the market with these weapons. Today, "post-ban" AR-15s, AK-47s, MAC-10s, and even UZIs are legal to manufacture, buy, and sell—and are being used in crime. A "post-ban" AR-15-type assault rifle manufactured by Bushmaster was used by the Washington, DC-area snipers to kill 10 and wound three in 2002. At the same time, new assault weapons are appearing on the market. The Hi-Point Carbine was introduced in 1996, two years after the current assault weapons ban took effect. This assault rifle costs less than \$250 and was one of two assault weapons used in the 1999 Columbine massacre in Littleton, Colorado. Simply renewing current law will not protect the public and law enforcement from post-ban assault weapons. A stronger, more effective ban is vital to public safety, a point made graphically by the fact that from 1998 through 2001, **one out of five law enforcement officers slain in the line of duty were killed with an assault weapon.**

We know this legislation will work. It is modeled on California's successful assault weapons ban passed in 1999. Today, assault weapons like the Washington, DC-area snipers' Bushmaster that are freely marketed nationwide cannot be sold in California. The rest of the nation deserves a law as strong as California's.

We join together in asking for your active support of S. 1431 and H.R. 2038, legislation that would truly ban assault weapons nationwide.

Sincerely,

Marc Abraham  
Debbie Allen  
Kevin Bacon  
Laurie & Bill Benenson

Loraine & Peter Boyle  
Elizabeth Brooks & Larry Frazin  
Shelly & Larry Brown  
Jackson Browne  
Susan Titelman Cooder & Ry Cooder  
Jamie Lee Curtis  
Alison & David Dinerstein  
Carrie Fisher  
Eve & Bill Gerber  
Mimi Polk Gitlin & Richard Gitlin  
Patricia Heaton & David Hunt  
Dustin Hoffman  
Helen Hunt  
Anjelica Huston  
Marta Kauffman & Michael Skloff  
Scarlett Johansson  
Jena & Michael King  
Christine Lahti & Thomas Schlamme  
Cyndi Lauper  
Lyn & Norman Lear  
Téa Leoni  
William H. Macy  
Samantha Mathis  
Harlee McBride & Richard Belzer  
Shiva Rose & Dylan McDermott  
Patty Smyth McEnroe & John McEnroe  
Susan & Graham Nash  
Leslie Neale & John Densmore  
Sally & Van Dyke Parks  
Stephanie & John Perenchio  
Danica & Charles Perez  
Tom Petty  
Robert Redford  
Rob Reiner  
Tim Roth  
Deborah & Carlos Santana  
Charlie Sheen  
Brooke Shields & Chris Henchy  
Nancy & Martin Short  
Julia & Aaron Sorkin  
Barbra Streisand  
James Taylor  
Heather Thomas  
Cheryl Tiegs  
Daena Title & Jason Alexander  
Jenno Topping & Chris Moore  
Don Was