

City of Pittsburgh

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Text File

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WHEREAS, in the wake of the tragic shooting in Las Vegas, in which 58 innocent people were killed and an additional 489 were injured, making it the largest mass shooting in the history of the United States, the discussion regarding gun control reform is loud and pressing; and,

WHEREAS, automatic weapons have been illegal for civilians to possess in the United States since the passage of the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986, which banned the purchase of any automatic weapon manufactured after May 19, 1986; and,

WHEREAS, the staggering number of casualties was due in large part to the shooter's use of a bump stock, which turns a semi-automatic weapon into a quasi-automatic weapon and increases its firing capacity from 45-to-60 rounds-per-minute to upwards of 400-to-800 rounds-per-minute; and,

WHEREAS, there is no need for a civilian to possess a weapon of such capacity other than for the purpose of killing large numbers of people in a short amount of time, demonstrated by the aforementioned casualties incurred in only 10 minutes in Las Vegas, and review of these accessories must be undertaken immediately, as agreed upon by the National Rifle Association and public officials from both parties; and,

WHEREAS, Representatives Carlos Curbelo of Florida and Seth Moulton of Massachusetts are leading a bipartisan effort in the House of Representatives to ban the manufacture, sale, and use of bump stocks, and are asking for other bipartisan co-sponsors to join and demonstrate unified desire for reform; and,

WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has proposed the "Automatic Gun Fire Prevention Act," which would ban the sale, transfer, importation, manufacture, or possession of any accessory that makes semi-automatic weapons capable of this firing capacity, including bump stocks and trigger cranks, and would not impact legitimate hunting accessories or lawful possession; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the will and desire of the Council of the City of Pittsburgh that all members of the United States Senate show their support for banning these unnecessary and destructive accessories through the passage of legislation in the House of Representatives and the "Automatic Gun Fire Prevention Act" in the Senate, and encourage their colleagues in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees to advance these bills for full consideration and passage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Pittsburgh hereby commends Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey for his support of this bill.