

GOA GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA

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Assault Weapons Ban of 2022 to Ban Self-Defense Firearms Used to Stop Mass Public Shootings

According to a 2021 National Firearms Survey from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business Research, there are an estimated 1.67 million defensive uses of a firearm each year.¹ This means that firearms are at least as likely to be used to save lives than to take lives, if not many times more.²

Rep. Cicilline's *Assault Weapons Ban of 2022* bans thousands of commonly-owned self-defense firearms as "semiautomatic assault weapons." This legislation, as demonstrated by the stories recounted below, would ban the very firearms that law-abiding self-defenders have used to save countless lives at mass public shootings.

Indianapolis Mall - Sunday July 17th, 2022

A mass-murderer opened fire in a mall food court in Indianapolis when an armed civilian with "no police training and no military background" named Elisjsa Dicken drew his firearm and engaged the mass murderer.³ **Elisjsa was carrying a firearm without a permit pursuant to his constitutional right to do so, as affirmed and protected by Indiana's Constitutional Carry law, which went into effect only 17 days earlier on July 1st.**⁴

According to the local police, Dicken "was very tactically sound as he moved to close in on the suspect, he was also motioning for people to exit behind him."⁵ According to the local police chief, "his actions were nothing short of heroic."⁶ Dicken first shot the murderer from 40-50 yards away, striking the killer. Dicken was able to put multiple additional rounds on target, ending the threat to the public at large.⁷

Under the *Assault Weapons Ban of 2022*, Dicken's Glock would have been banned for being "a semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm."⁸ In addition to the firearm being classified as a "semiautomatic assault weapon," the magazine may also have been banned for "large capacity ammunition feeding device."

Sutherland Springs – Sunday November 5th, 2017

A madman opened fire on a Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, killing 26 and injuring 22 others. Stephen Willeford, who lives down the street, heard the gunfire, retrieved his AR-15 from his gun safe, ran down the street barefoot, and engaged the shooter. When fired upon, the attacker retreated and eventually expired along the highway.

Under the *Assault Weapons Ban of 2022*, Stephen's rifle would have been banned in five different ways. It meets the definition of a "semiautomatic assault weapon" because it has (1) a pistol grip, (2) a forward grip, (3) a telescoping stock, (4) a barrel shroud, and (5) a threaded barrel.⁹

The *Assault Weapons Ban of 2022* also includes an anti-self-defense section mandating so-called "safe storage."¹⁰ On that day, Stephen's rifle was stored locked and unloaded. Recollecting those moments, Stephen said: "I lost 90 precious seconds retrieving my firearm from a safe. I won't make that mistake again."¹¹ He now keeps his self-defense firearms loaded and readily accessible. Stephen is now a GOA spokesperson.¹²



Sources

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