



Consumer Federation of America



**For Immediate Release**

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**SOLID MAJORITIES OF GUN OWNERS, UNION MEMBERS, NASCAR  
FANS SUPPORT ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN**

***-- Ten new surveys from key states show likely voters want President Bush to act before assault  
weapons ban expires --***

*-- President has fewer than 15 legislative days to keep his word --*

(Washington, DC) – Two months before the federal assault weapons ban is set to expire, the **Consumer Federation of America (CFA)** and the **Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV)** today released ten new state polls measuring attitudes of likely voters – specifically gun owners, union members, and NASCAR fans – toward the assault weapons ban.

The surveys, compiled in a report titled “Unconventional Wisdom,” show that strong majorities of Americans support banning military-style guns such as Uzis and AK-47s, regardless of geographic area, gun ownership, union membership, and even NRA support. The findings are in line with previous national polling conducted by the CFA, as well as the [National Annenberg Election Survey](#). The April 2004 Annenberg study found that 64% of gun-owning households and half of NRA-member households support banning assault weapons.

“Unconventional Wisdom” is available by calling the contacts above.

The surveys examined likely voter attitudes in ten key states, including Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Among the key findings:

- Majorities of gun owners in all but two states favor renewing the ban. Even in those states (MO and OH), only slightly less than 50% of gun owners and NRA supporters favor renewing the ban.
- In nine of ten states surveyed, union households support *renewing* the ban by at least 60%; similarly, more than 60% of NASCAR fans support *renewing* the ban in four out of the five states in which this demographic question was asked.
- Voters in Midwestern states support renewing the assault weapons ban only slightly more than in Southwestern states. Midwestern states (OH, WI, MI, and MO) averaged 72%

support for renewing the ban. Southwestern states (AZ and NM) averaged 67% support.

- Voters in rural states, traditionally seen as very conservative on “gun control,” strongly favor renewing the ban. 68% of both South Dakota and West Virginia voters support renewing the ban.

“Today’s findings demonstrate a need to re-assess how Americans view gun policy,” said Sue Peschin, Director of the Firearms Project for the Consumer Federation of America. “When it comes to the assault weapons ban, there is surprisingly little disagreement: Americans don’t want these military-style weapons on their streets.”

“With so few days left to save and strengthen the assault weapons ban, this new information could not come at a more critical time,” said Joshua Horwitz, Executive Director of the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. “Americans want to ban assault weapons, and they expect President Bush to act.”

### **House Looks to Bush, Bush Looks to House**

President Bush and Congress have fewer than 15 legislative days to act on the federal assault weapons ban. In the June 24 edition of *The Boston Globe*, White House spokesperson Ken Lisaius said, “Bush still supports the ban, but is waiting for the House to act.”

But according to the July 11 edition of the *Washington Post*, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said that Bush has not asked the House to renew the ban.

If President Bush does not work to save the landmark law before Congress’s scheduled late-July adjournment, the assault weapons ban will surely expire on September 13, 2004.

### **About CFA**

*The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is a non-profit association of 300 pro-consumer groups, which was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy and education. CFA Research Director Mark Cooper, Ph.D. and Firearms Project Director Susan Peschin, MHS authored this report. Call (202) 939-1017 with any questions.*

### **About EFSGV**

*The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence was founded in 1978 as a nonprofit educational charity dedicated to ending firearm violence, particularly as it affects children. Our mission is to stop gun violence by fostering effective community and national action.*

*The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence is the Educational Fund’s sister organization.*

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