



S. ____, the *Banning Unlawful Machinegun Parts (BUMP) Act of 2023*

S. ____, the *Banning Unlawful Machinegun Parts (BUMP) Act of 2023*, soon to be introduced by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM), will ban the sale of deadly bump stock devices that allow semiautomatic firearms to rapidly fire multiple rounds like machine guns.

Specifically, it will amend the federal criminal code to prohibit the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, receipt, or possession of:

- a device that is primarily designed, or redesigned, to increase the rate of fire when attached to a semiautomatic firearm;
- a device, part, or combination of parts that is designed and functions to increase the rate of fire of a firearm; or
- a semiautomatic firearm that has been modified to increase the rate of fire.

Additionally, the bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to add modified semiautomatic firearms to the list of firearms subject to regulation under the National Firearms Act.

Background

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bump stocks are “devices that allow a semiautomatic firearm to shoot more than one shot with a single pull of the trigger”. An “add-on” to a semi-automatic firearm, their function is nearly identical to machine guns, which fire repeatedly with one pull of the trigger by the shooter. Instead of one bullet being released for each pull of the trigger, bump stocks allow for multiple shots to be fired every second, and hundreds to be fired every minute.

Bump stocks are designed to inflict the highest number of casualties in the shortest amount of time. They are incredibly dangerous, and there has long been bipartisan support to ban them in Congress and from Presidents on both sides of the aisle.

On October 1, 2017, a bump stock was used to fire more than 1,000 bullets into a crowd in Las Vegas in just 10 minutes, killing 60 people, and wounding at least 413 more. It remains the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.

In response, under the Trump Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) initiated a ban on these lethal devices. This rule was enacted in 2019. But on January 6, 2023, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the ban – stating that it would require an ‘act of Congress’ to federally outlaw bump stocks.

While the ban on bump stocks currently remains in effect, the Fifth Circuit’s decision places the ban in danger of repeal. Congress must take immediate action to prohibit these deadly devices to keep our children and communities safe.