

**FALL 2023 ADVOCACY DAYS
PEACE ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT OF PEACEBUILDING CAMPAIGN**

ADDITIONAL PEACEBUILDING/VIOLENCE REDUCTION LEGISLATION

1. ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN OF 2023 (HR 698/ S. 25)

Sponsors: Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI-1)/ Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Cosponsors: House 205 cosponsors; Senate 44 cosponsors (as of 9/11/23)

This bill makes it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon (SAW) or large capacity ammunition feeding device (LCAFD). The prohibition does not apply to a firearm that is (1) manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action, except for certain shotguns; (2) permanently inoperable; (3) an antique; (4) only capable of firing rimfire ammunition; or (5) a rifle or shotgun specifically identified by make and model.

The bill also exempts from the prohibition the following, with respect to a SAW or LCAFD:

- importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession related to certain law enforcement efforts, or authorized tests or experiments;
- importation, sale, transfer, or possession related to securing nuclear materials; and
- possession by a retired law enforcement officer.

The bill permits continued possession, sale, or transfer of a grandfathered SAW, which must be securely stored. A licensed gun dealer must conduct a background check prior to the sale or transfer of a grandfathered SAW between private parties. The bill permits continued possession of, but prohibits sale or transfer of, a grandfathered LCAFD. Newly manufactured LCAFDs must display serial number identification. Newly manufactured SAWs and LCAFDs must display the date of manufacture. The bill also allows a state or local government to use Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds to compensate individuals who surrender a SAW or LCAFD under a buy-back program.

2. COMMISSION FOR TRUTH, RACIAL HEALING & TRANSFORMATION (HR 40/ S. 40)

Sponsors: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18); Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)

Cosponsors: House - 100 cosponsors; Senate - 24 cosponsors (as of 9/11/23)

The commission must (1) compile documentary evidence of slavery in the United States; (2) study the role of the federal and state governments in supporting the institution of slavery; (3) analyze discriminatory laws and policies against freed African slaves and their descendants; and (4) recommend ways the United States may recognize and remedy the effects of slavery and discrimination on African Americans, including through a formal apology and compensation (i.e. reparations).

The commission consists of individuals from civil society and reparations organizations and individuals appointed by the President and congressional leadership; Members of Congress and governmental employees may not serve on the commission. The commission may hold hearings, subpoena witnesses and records, and contract with other entities to conduct its work.

3. OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION (HR 1699/ S 951)

Sponsors: Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-FL-10); Sen. Christopher Murphy (D-CT)

Cosponsors: **House** - 80 cosponsors; Senate - 1 cosponsor (as of 9/11/21)

This bill establishes an Office of Gun Violence Prevention within the Department of Justice's Office of DoP/ OPMoC2023-Action#5-Flyers, Leg Summary

Legal Policy. Among its duties, the office must coordinate various gun violence prevention efforts that are administered by the Department of Justice, recommend policy options to promote evidence-based gun violence prevention strategies, and promote related data collection.

4. PROMOTING RESOLUTION OF TIBET-CHINA CONFLICT ACT (HR 533/ S 138)

Sponsors: Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA-2); Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Cosponsors: House - 34 cosponsors; Senate - 4 cosponsors (as of 9/11/23)

Department of State reports on human rights and religious freedom have consistently documented repression by the People's Republic of China authorities against Tibetans as well as acts of defiance and resistance by Tibetan people against the People's Republic of China policies. "Tibet has maintained throughout its history a distinctive and sovereign national, cultural, and religious identity separate from that of China and, except during periods of illegal Chinese occupation, has maintained a separate and sovereign political and territorial identity"

This bill addresses issues relating to Tibet, including by establishing a statutory definition of Tibet that includes areas in Chinese provinces outside the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).

For the purposes of U.S. policies and activities relating to Tibet, this bill defines Tibet to include the TAR and the Tibetan areas of the Qinghai, Sichuan, Gansu, and Yunnan provinces. (Generally, when China's government refers to Tibet, it means only the TAR, while Tibetan exile groups consider historical Tibet to include the TAR as well as areas in the provinces included in this bill's definition. China's government formally established the TAR in 1965.)

Furthermore, the objectives of the Office of the U.S. Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues shall include working to ensure that U.S. government statements and documents counter disinformation about Tibet by China's government and the Chinese Communist Party, including disinformation about Tibet's history and institutions. The bill also authorizes the office to take other actions to counter such disinformation.

This bill also states that it is U.S. policy that the conflict between Tibet and China is unresolved and that Tibet's legal status remains to be determined in accordance with international law.

5. WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT (HR 12/ S 701)

Sponsors: Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-28); Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

Cosponsors: House - 212; Senate - 48 (as of 9/11/23)

This bill prohibits governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services. Before fetal viability, governments may not restrict providers from

- using particular abortion procedures or drugs,
- offering abortion services via telemedicine, or
- immediately providing abortion services if delaying risks the patient's health.

Furthermore, governments may not require providers to

- perform unnecessary medical procedures,
- provide medically inaccurate information, or
- comply with credentialing or other conditions that do not apply to providers who offer medically comparable services to abortions.

Additionally, governments may not require patients to make medically unnecessary in-person visits before receiving abortion services or disclose their reasons for obtaining services.

This legislation addresses the rights of people able to give birth to make decisions about their bodies in consultation with their doctors. It also lays the foundation for the right to privacy and the right to protect ourselves from debilitating and irreversible life events. It will impact the immediate health of pregnant persons, but it will also impact the lives of millions of children who will be born into situations that have the potential to irrevocably harm the people they will grow up to be. People who can become pregnant are not vessels for the government to dictate their use.

OTHER BILLS RELEVANT TO FALL 2023 ADVOCACY DAYS

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF VIOLENCE - HR 5003

(2022 Version - HR4118) (2023 Summary Not Available - HR 5003)

Sponsor: Rep. Steven Horsford (D-NV- 4)

Cosponsors:

This bill establishes federal grant programs and related entities to support violence intervention initiatives. Specifically, the bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to:

- award **grants for coordinated community violence intervention initiatives** in communities disproportionately impacted by homicides and community violence.
- HHS must also establish several related entities, including
 - an **Office of Community Violence Intervention** to administer programs and activities related to violence intervention;
 - the **Community Violence Intervention Advisory Committee** to advise and assist the office and HHS; and
 - the **National Community Violence Response Center** to provide training and technical assistance, coordinate research, and
 - develop data collection policies.
- Additionally, the bill **directs the Department of Labor to award grants for job training and workforce programs** in communities disproportionately affected by gun violence to connect youth ages 16 to 24 to in-demand occupations.

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION SHAB-EH-NAY BAND RESERVATION SETTLEMENT ACT OF 2023 (HR 3144)

Sponsor: Chuy Garcia (D-IL 4)

Cosponsors: 6 cosponsors (as of 9/11/23)

This bill provides for the settlement of claims by the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation relating to the Shab-eh-nay Band Reservation in northern Illinois. The reservation consists of 1,280 acres and, due to a sale in 1849, is currently occupied by the tribe and non-tribe entities, including the State of Illinois, the Dekalb County government, and corporate entities.

In particular, the bill recognizes the tribe's ownership of 129 acres of land within the reservation. Further, the bill extinguishes the tribe's title to the remainder of the reservation.

Subject to appropriations, the bill requires the Department of the Interior to pay the tribe a specified amount as settlement of the tribe's claims for the tribe to promote economic development and land acquisition.

The tribe may use these settlement funds to acquire up to 1,151 acres of land within or near the reservation.

The bill authorizes the tribe to enter into agreements with the State of Illinois and local governments. It requires land that is located within the boundaries of the reservation and owned by state and local governments to be managed to protect any human or cultural remains.
