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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

JUL 10 '07 - 11 50 AM

2007-237

SECRETARY OF STATE, INDEX DEPT.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in 2004 nearly 8 children and teenagers ages 19 and under were killed in the United States with guns every day; and

WHEREAS, the cost of one gun crime can be as high as \$1.79 million, including medical treatment and the prosecution and imprisonment of the offender; and

WHEREAS, medical costs of gun violence put a burden on employers, health service providers and the State of Illinois because at least 80% of the economic costs of treating firearm injuries are paid for with taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 1994, Congress passed the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, requiring domestic gun manufacturers to stop production of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices (ammunition clips holding more than 10 rounds), except for military or police use; and

WHEREAS, during the ten-year federal ban, the prevalence of assault weapons traced to crimes declined 66%; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Assault Weapons Ban expired on September 13, 2004, leaving Illinois without any statewide measures to combat the proliferation of assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of federal regulation, the State of Illinois must act to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens from the violence caused by the presence and proliferation of assault weapons in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, large capacity ammunition feeding devices enable assault weapons and .50 caliber rifles to fire thirty rounds of ammunition in under five seconds, reload automatically and carry up to 100 rounds; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1007 would largely prohibit the knowing delivery, sale, purchase or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, passage of Senate Bill 1007 would advance the State's interest in protecting the health, safety and welfare of Illinoisans by abating gun violence and the associated health care and societal costs caused by large capacity ammunition feeding devices;

THEREFORE, pursuant to Article IV, Section 5 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby call and convene the 95th General Assembly in a special session to commence on July 11, 2007, at 2:00 p.m., to consider and discuss Senate Bill 1007 as well as the impact of assault weapon violence on the State's health care expenditures and general fiscal health.



ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH
Governor

Dated: July 10, 2007

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