

Stop Militarizing Our Streets Act of 2024

Certain Department of Defense contractors sell military-grade firearms and ammunition in the commercial market. For example, in late 2023, a *New York Times* investigation revealed that the U.S. Army's Lake City manufacturing plant sold ammunition that has been used in at least a [dozen major mass shootings](#) since 2012, including shootings at a movie theater in Aurora, a concert venue in Las Vegas, and schools in Parkland and Uvalde. The same plant claims a third of the market for ammunition used in AR-15-style rifles sold to the public. The plant is operated by the private manufacturer Olin Winchester, which [touts](#) its relationship to the military to [entice](#) civilian customers to "use the same product selected by the US Military."

Meanwhile, although most private contractors who sell military-grade weaponry to the Department of Defense are responsible actors, at least nine of the roughly 48 private firearm vendors that supply DoD with small arms also sell semi-automatic assault weapons in the commercial market. These contractors depend on DoD for much of their profit; in 2021, military sales accounted for roughly 40% of the gun and ammunition industry's \$18.4 billion in revenue. As the single largest purchaser of guns and ammunition, the U.S. military has the market power and responsibility to reduce the flow of military-grade ammunition and firearms to civilians, and to improve good safety practices in the gun industry.

This bill ensures that public facilities and public money do not facilitate the sale of military-grade assault weapons and ammunition in the commercial market. It also leverages DoD's buying power to incentivize firearm and ammunition dealers to adopt good safety practices.

Specifically, the *Stop Militarizing Our Streets Act* would:

- **Prohibit** DoD-owned manufacturing plants and DoD contractors from selling military-grade assault weapons and ammunition to civilians.
- **Require** government-owned plants and military contractors to only sell other firearms and ammunition to commercial dealers that obtain a federal firearms license, maintain a low number of crime gun traces, prevent bulk stockpiling of ammunition, and comply with a code of conduct (which includes requirements focused on background checks, adequate staff training, record maintenance, screening of customers, as well as maintaining a strong security system and reporting ATF inspections).
- **Enhance oversight by** requiring government-owned plants to report to Congress the scale of their commercial sales and operational plans for preventing diversion into the underground market; require DoD to report the types of firearms sold by military contractors, and the amount of revenue those sellers receive from DoD annually.