



News from Congressman

Tom Lantos

**12th Congressional District of California
San Mateo/San Francisco**

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FOR INFORMATION CALL
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Lantos Urges Expanding the Life-Saving Ban on Assault Weapons, Rather Than Letting it Lapse

Washington, DC – Congressman Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo/San Francisco) today said it was infuriating that President Bush and the Congressional Republican leadership have let the 10-year federal ban on assault weapons lapse, saying the life-saving measure should be expanded instead.

“In an era when heavily-armed terrorists can kill and injure hundreds of people in a Russian school, it is unthinkable that responsible authorities in our country would deliberately let assault weapons flood the market,” Lantos said. “Our police officers want this ban to stay in place, and to be strengthened. Teachers and parents in communities across the country want this ban to continue to keep our children safe. Why aren’t the Republican Congressional leadership and the White House prepared to do that?”

Lantos is a co-sponsor of a bipartisan bill to extend the ban, HR 3831, which was introduced in February, but was barred from coming to the House floor. Despite President Bush’s assertion that he supports extending the ban, the White House has not exerted pressure on Congress to do so.

“The House leadership and the Administration have been hypocritical on this issue,” Lantos said. “It is infuriating that on a matter as important as this, Congress has chosen the politically expedient route of taking no action.”

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